COLLEGE BASKETBALL PREVIEW '97-98
PLUS! OUR DAILY HOOPS VIEWING GUIDE

Sport

America's Premier Sports Monthly

New Look
New Attitude
New Style

Bullet Proof

Cowboys Star Michael Irvin Believes He's Invincible

Jimmy Johnson
The Reel World

NOVEMBER 1997

The New Sport and The New Camaro

Camaro Presents "Drive to the End Zone" Sweepstakes

Win tickets and a complete trip to the 1998 NFL Championship Game in San Diego, CA and receive $1,000 cash!

See reverse flap for official entry form and rules. ▶

Go For It!

Camaro Presents "Drive to the End Zone" Sweepstakes

Win tickets and a complete trip to the NFL's most celebrated event: the 1998 NFL Championship Game, January 25th, 1998, in San Diego, CA and receive $1,000 cash!

Official Sweepstake Rules

1. No purchase is required to enter or win. Each valid entry received has an equal chance to win. The odds of winning are determined by the total number of eligible entries received.
2. To enter: a)Correctly complete an official entry form and mail according to the directions in these rules and on the entry form.
b)You may also enter the sweepstakes by hand printing your name, address, ZIP code and telephone number along with the words, " Camaro Presents 'Drive to the End Zone' Sweepstakes," on a 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" postcard. Please address this postcard by hand printing the address mentioned in the next paragraph onto the front of the postcard.
c)Where this sweepstakes is promoted at a show or other event, you may also enter directly at that location.
3. Only one entry is allowed per person. Mail your entry via first-class mail, to: Camaro Presents "Drive to the End Zone" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 12298, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0998. This sweepstakes begins September 16, 1997. All entries must be received at the designated address by December 16, 1997, to be eligible. No responsibility is assumed for lost, late, misdirected, damaged, illegible or postage-due mail, or for printing or other errors.
4. By entering sweepstakes each entrant agrees to abide by the rules of the sweepstakes. Disqualification will result if any of the regulations/instructions mentioned in these rules or on the entry form are not followed. Any entries that have been photocopied or similarly reproduced are not eligible.
5. Entries become the property of Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C., and will not be returned. Each entrant consents to the transfer of all information contained on his/her completed entry form(s) to other companies.
6. This sweepstakes is sponsored by Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C., 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515. This sweepstakes may be presented in conjunction with various product offers from the sponsors. Sweepstakes may be presented in different creative presentations.
7. The winner will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about December 19, 1997, from among all eligible entries received. The administrative supervision of this promotion, including the random drawing is being administered by an independent judging consultant whose decisions are final.
8. Potential winner will be notified by mail. Potential winner must follow the directions contained in any required Affidavit of Eligibility, prize acceptance form, skill-testing notification, or any correspondence attached therewith and return all forms, correctly filled out, so that the forms are received at the designated address within 10 days of the date on the correspondence. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and in the selection of an alternate winner. Potential winner is responsible for ensuring that any of the previously mentioned forms are actually received at the designated address within the above-mentioned 10 days. Any prize, affidavit, prize notification or other correspondence that is returned as undeliverable may result in disqualification and in the selection of an alternate winner.
9. In order to be awarded a prize, residents of Canada will be required to correctly answer a time-limited arithmetical skill-testing question. In the event the skill-testing question is not correctly answered (within the time limit) disqualification will occur and an alternate winner will be selected.
10. There is only one grand prize. The grand prize consists of the following: A 2-day trip for two people January 25, 1998, to attend the 32nd Annual NFL Championship Game in San Diego, California. The trip will include: A)Round-trip airfare for two (coach) from a major gateway city (in the continental U.S. or Canada) to San Diego. B)Hotel accommodations for two (double occupancy) for 2 nights. Accommodations to be chosen by Petersen Publishing company, L.L.C. C)Cash of $1,000 to cover all other expenses for the trip. D)Any additional expenses, not mentioned above, and not covered by the $1,000 cash will be at the winner's/guest's expense. If for any reason the winner cannot take the vacation on the above-mentioned dates, he/she forfeits all rights to the prize and an alternate winner will be selected. If, for any reason, while on the grand-prize trip the winner/guest is/are not able to complete any or all portion(s) of the planned activities, the winner/guest forfeit(s) all rights to that portion of the activities that were not completed. The approximate value of the grand prize is $4,950.00. The value of the grand prize may vary depending on the location of the winner/guest and airfares/rates at the time of departure.
11. No substitution of the prize except by sweepstakes sponsor (due to prize unavailability), in which case a prize of equal or greater value will be awarded. Prize value is stated in U.S. currency. Taxes and duties on the prize(where applicable) are the sole responsibility of the winner/guest. Taxes for the guest's portion of the prize are the guest's responsibility. As a result, in order for the guest to qualify to accompany the prize winner he/she must provide the sweepstakes sponsors with his/her social security number.
12. This sweepstakes is open only to legal residents of the United States and Canada. Sweepstakes void in the province of Quebec, in Puerto Rico and where prohibited by law. A parent or legal guardian must be the guest accompanying the grand-prize winner if the winner is under 18 years of age at the time of departure for the grand-prize trip. Employees (and their immediate family members or agents) of the following companies are not eligible: General Motors Corporation, Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C., and any fulfillment, judging or other company involved, in any way, with this sweepstakes. An immediate family member is defined as a parent, child or sibling of such employees. All federal, state, local, municipal and provincial laws and regulations apply.
13. The grand-prize winner releases General Motors Corporation, Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C. and their affiliates, officers, agents, employees and promotional consultants from any responsibility or liability in connection with any loss, accident or death incurred during the stay in San Diego, California, or in transit to or from San Diego. The grand-prize winner and his/her travel guest must both sign a waiver of any and all claims for injuries, damages or death resulting from participation in the grand-prize trip.
14. By acceptance of the prize, both the winner and guest each consent to the use of his/her name, address, signature, quote, voice, photograph and likeness for purposes of advertising, promotion or trade without additional compensation (this provision is void where prohibited).
15. The name, city and state of residence of the winner will appear in a printed list, which will be mailed upon request. This list will be available approximately 1/20/98. For a copy of this winner's list, send a self-addressed, stamped (#10 size) envelope (unstamped for Canada) to: Camaro Presents "Drive to the End Zone" Sweepstakes Winner's List, P.O. Box 12298, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0998.

Enter Here!

Simply complete the attached coupon to be eligible for the drawing.

▶ **Mail to:** Camaro Presents "Drive to the End Zone" Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 12298, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0998

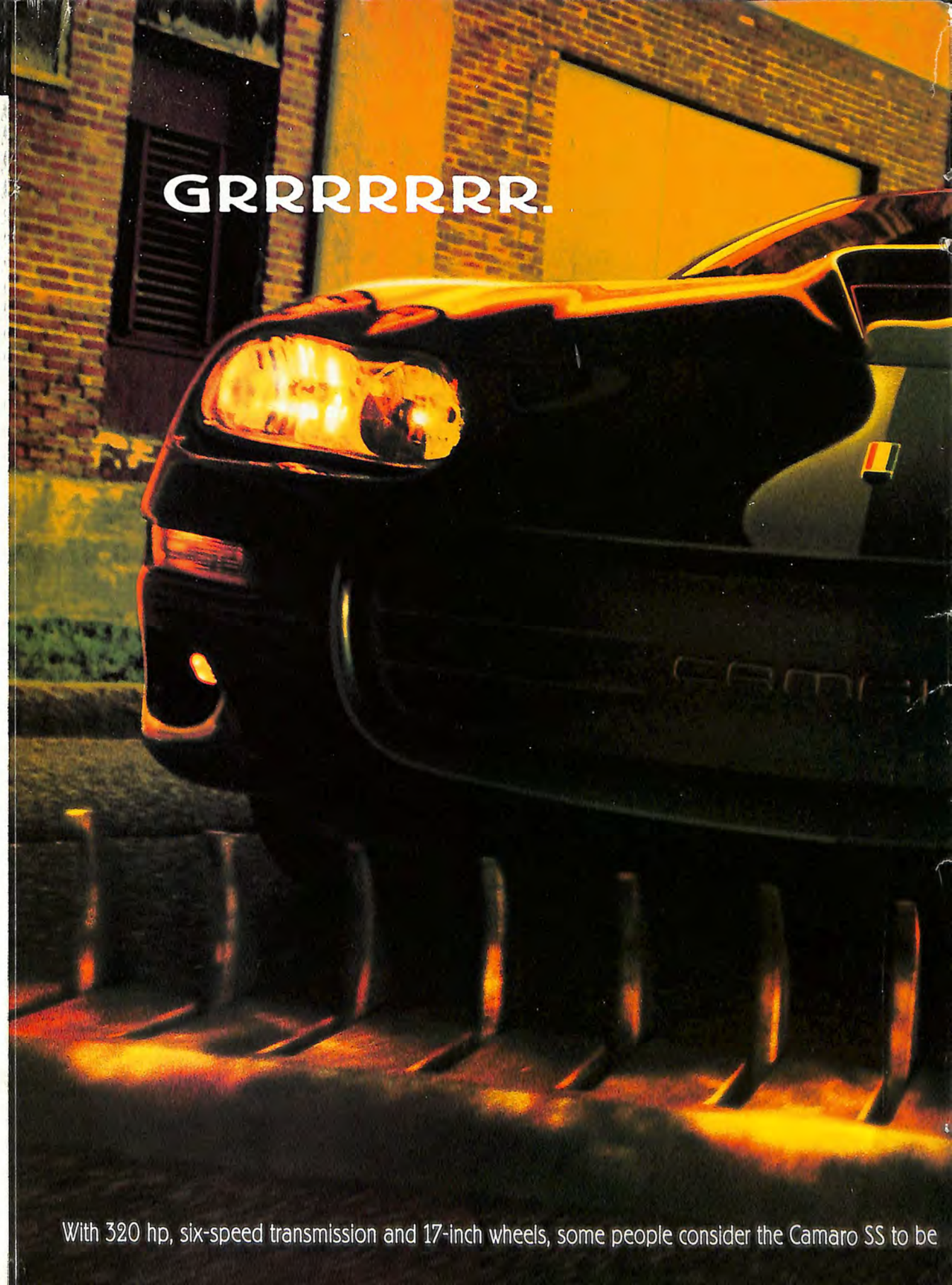
No purchase necessary. The above sweepstakes is valid in the U.S. and Canada only (sweepstakes not valid in the province of Quebec and in Puerto Rico). Deadline for receipt of entries: December 16, 1997.

Name: (please print) _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____



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November 1997

Sport

"I'll play mixed doubles next year, but I should give someone else a chance to win an event."
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~*By Bill Madden and Joe Rutter*

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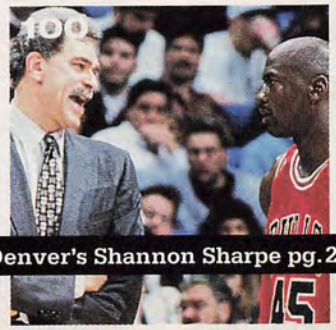

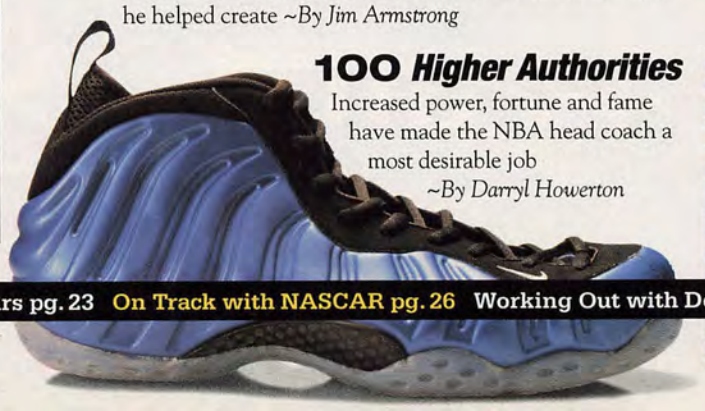

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No player practices, plays or parties harder than the Cowboys' Irvin, who believes he's just as invincible off the field as he is on it

~By Skip Bayless

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The Flyers are leaner and meaner and eager to make amends for last season's sweeping finals embarrassment

Plus: Team-by-team analysis, predictions and power rankings

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89 College Basketball Preview

Our Top 25, All-America teams, NBA lottery projections and filled-out postseason brackets

Plus: Fans' Viewing Guide

~By Dick "Hoops" Weiss

▶ Vote for the 25 most dominant athletes of 1997. E-mail us at sport@petersenpub.com

ON THE COVER:
MICHAEL IRVIN (TOM DIPACE),
JIMMY JOHNSON (TOM DIPACE)

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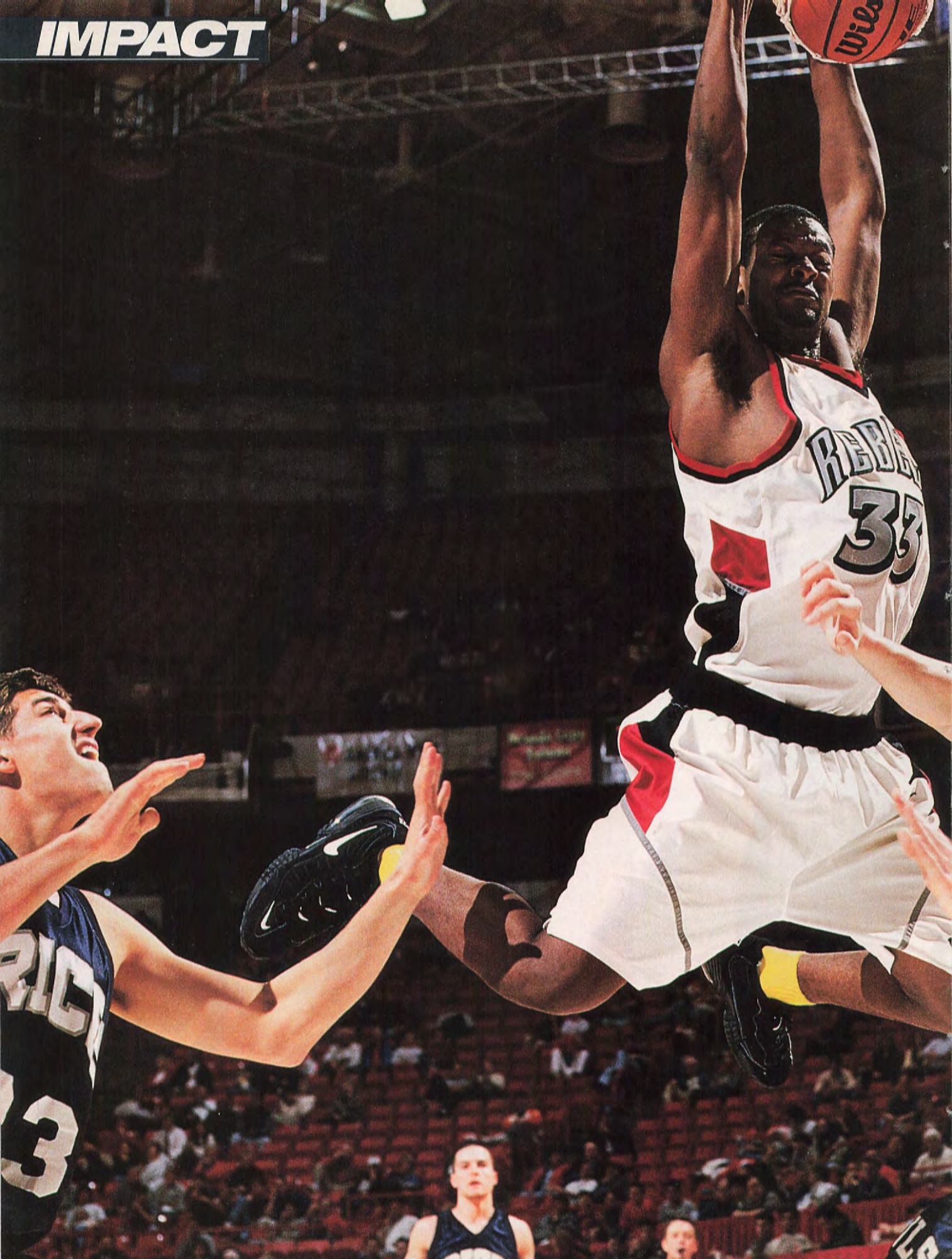
IMPACT

FACE OFF
Colorado's Eric Lacroix unloads on Detroit's Aaron Ward, who doesn't appear to like the taste of his chin strap.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REBEL WITH A CAUSE
UNLV's Tyrone Nesby demonstrates the fine art of the two-handed slam above a pair of impressed foes.

YOU HOLD HIM, I'LL HIT HIM
A Buc out of luck, Courtney Hawkins is greeted rather coldly by the Chargers' Rodney Harrison and Willie Clark.

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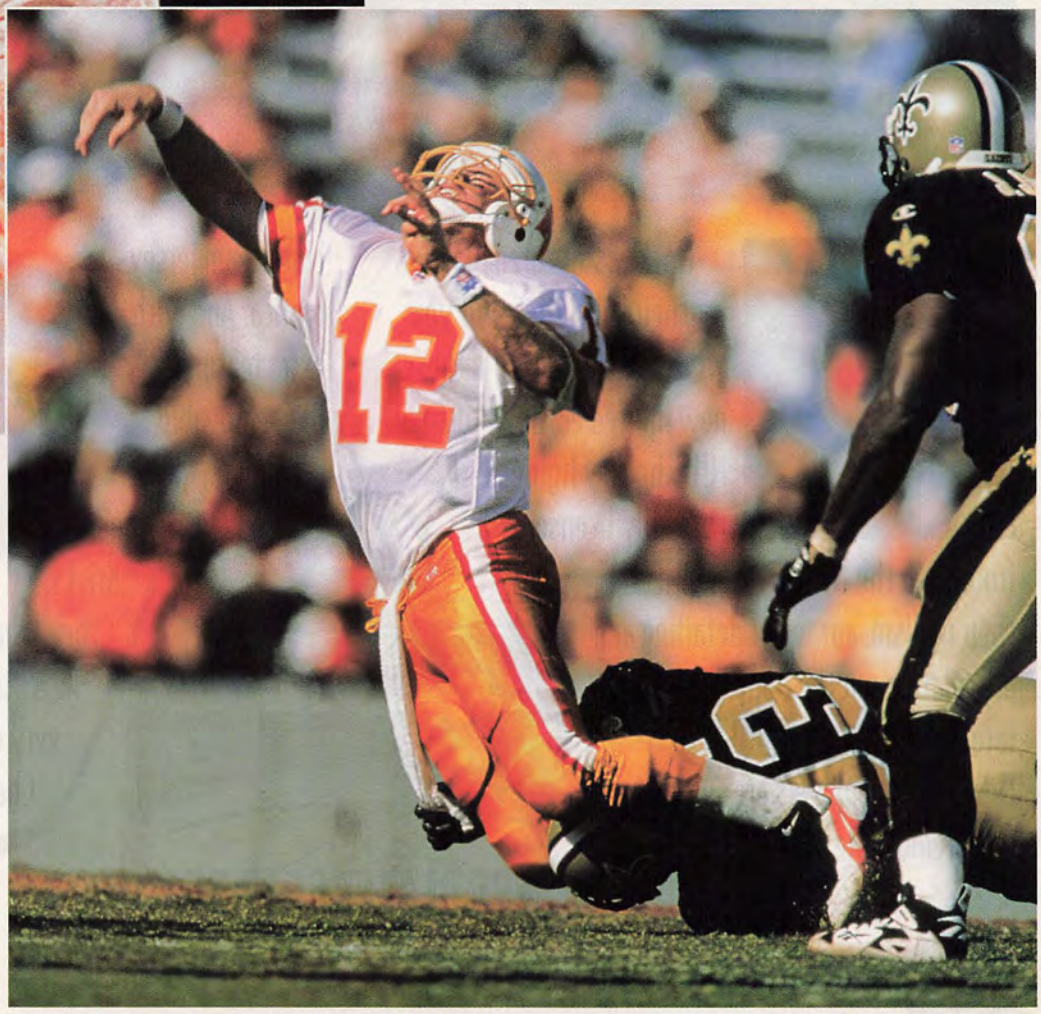
NHLPA

IMPACT

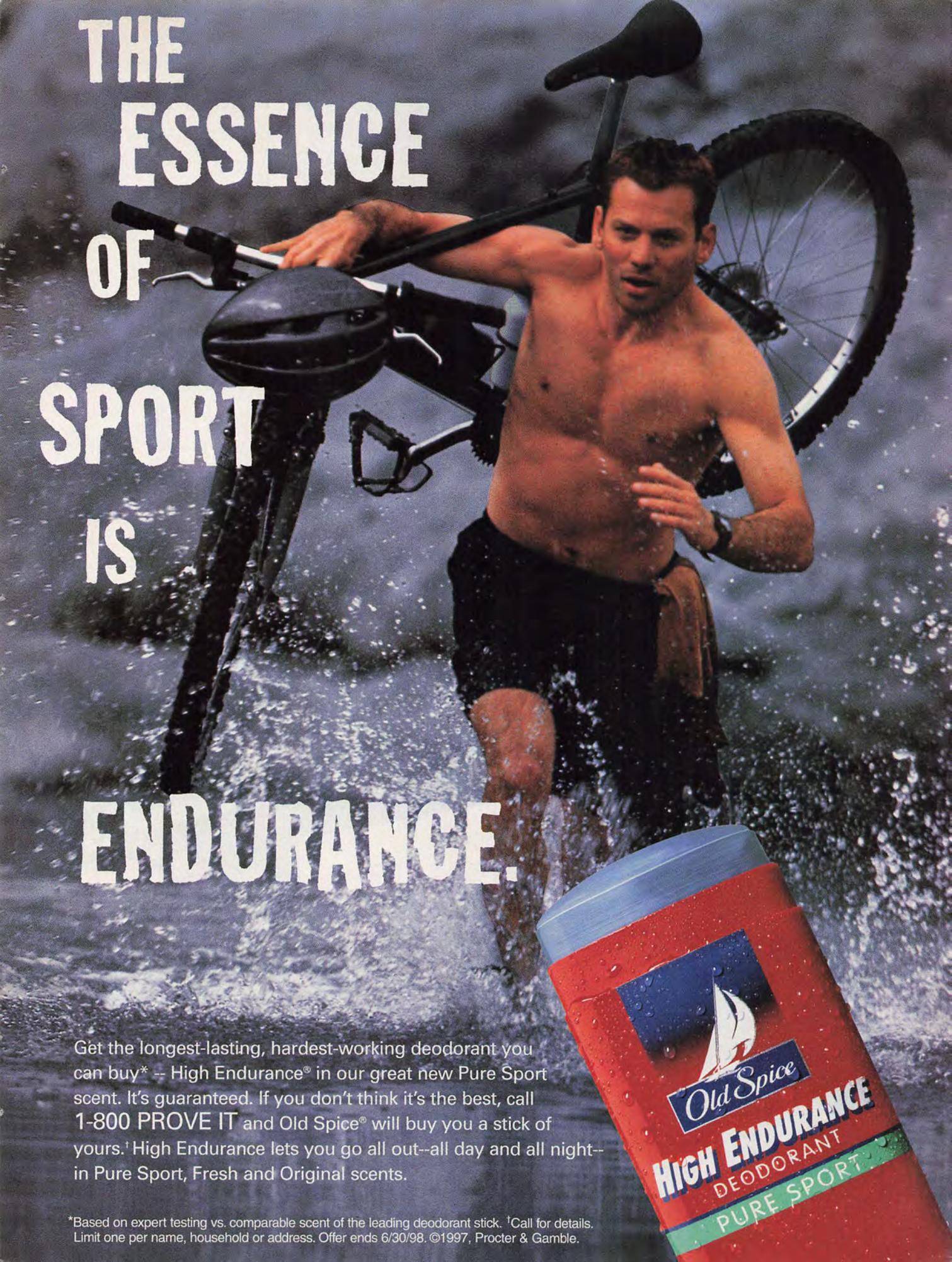
◀ **LOOK MOM, NO TEETH!**
A bloodied Christy Martin exults after TKOing Andrea Deshong in June.

▼ **WATCH THE FOOT!**
Darren Lewis appears to have narrowly escaped tragedy after a home plate collision with catcher George Williams.



▶ **BLIND FAITH**
Tampa Bay's Trent Dilfer is turf-bound, but he's not about to let the Saints' Wayne Martin boost his sack total.

CLOCKWISE: JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; ANDY LYONS/ALLSPORT. OPPOSITE PAGE: JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT.



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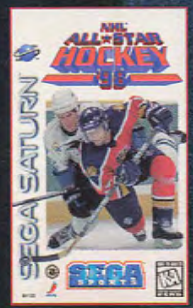

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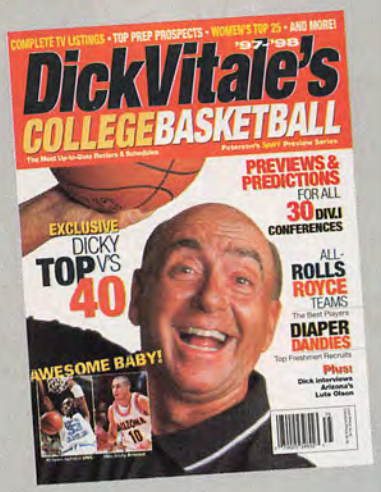

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Cameron Benty EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
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ART
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Sahar Tchaitchian PHOTO ASSISTANT
Chris Bonavita CONTRIBUTING DESIGNER Kevin Limongelli DESIGN ASSISTANT

PRODUCTION
Duke Anderson PRODUCTION MANAGER
Monica Strock ADVERTISING COORDINATOR

CONTRIBUTORS
WRITERS
Jim Armstrong, Barry M. Bloom, Andy Brumer, John Czarnecki, Bill Doherty
Dan Gordon, Greg Guss, Beth Howard, Ed Kiersh, Curry Kirkpatrick
Terry Lefton, Jeff Ryan, Tom Singer
PHOTOGRAPHERS
Herman Agopian, Greg Banner, E.J. Camp, Tom DiPace, Mitchell Haddad,
Michael Hebert, Paul Jasienski, Rick Kane, Allan Kee, Tim O'Dell,
Bob Rosato, Bruce L. Schwartzman, David N. Seelig, Jon Soohoo,
Brian Spurlock, Rob Tringali, Rocky Widner
ILLUSTRATORS
Bob Eckstein, Mark Kseniak, John McKinley

ADVERTISING OFFICES
Dorian Adams LAUNCH DIRECTOR
Ira Gabriel WEST COAST MANAGER

Atlanta:
Joe Shoopman, Clay Davies
5 Concourse Parkway, Suite 2950, Atlanta, GA 30328, 770/395-0970

Chicago:
Mike Cameron, Duane Placko
815 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, IL 60610, 312/649-0660

Magazine Services Inc.: Vicki Fuchs, Lynn Fink, Ben Cairns
500 North Michigan Ave, Suite 530, Chicago IL 60611; 312/280-7917, Fax 312/280-0790

Detroit:
Rob Couto
333 W. Fort St., Suite 1800, Detroit, MI 48226, 313/964-6680

Los Angeles:
Al Allen, Dave Armitage, Dave O'Connell
6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048-5515, 213/782-2785

New York:
Robert Anastasia, Dan Drescher, Jim Escobar, Chris Greiner, Ken Lipka,
Abigail Moore, Scott Perry, Brooks Scholl
110 Fifth Ave., 4th Floor, New York, NY 10011, 212/886-3600

Donald McGlathery DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH
Patrick Shannon VICE PRESIDENT, NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT 212/886-3633
Jeff Burch PUBLISHER, PETERSEN MAGAZINE NETWORK
David Good ASSOCIATE CIRCULATION DIRECTOR FOR RETAIL MARKETING & GOODS
Charles Rodin MARKETING CONSULTANT

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D. Claeys Bahrenburg CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
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AIKMAN

It was refreshing to read an article about Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman ("Back on Track," September). Aikman's leadership ability has long been underrated by the media. Unfortunately, we live in a world where form, most of the time, takes precedence over substance.

Aikman would have remarkable stats if he played in an offense that afforded him an opportunity to throw the ball 35 times a game like Green Bay's Brett Favre or Miami's Dan Marino. He'd also have a lot of TD passes if he were passing from the 1-yard line like the aforementioned individuals, rather than handing the ball off to Emmitt Smith.

I rate Aikman with the all-time greats: Joe Montana, John Unitas, Bart Starr and Terry Bradshaw. The one thing they all share is championship rings.

Emil R. Calomino
Kingston, Pa.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PREVIEW

You did a good job picking the college football teams, and hopefully it'll turn out the way you say because there'd be some great matchups. For example, Washington and Penn State in a Rose Bowl that really matters. And conference rivals in the three alliance bowls: Tennessee-Florida, North Carolina-Florida State and Nebraska-Colorado. We can only hope.

Ryan Scott
E-mail

I'm disappointed with SPORT and its preseason college football coverage. First, I was shocked to see that Arizona State was ranked a mere 60th. This, mind you, after going 11-1 and playing for the national championship the previous season. ASU still has the national coach of the year (Bruce Snyder) and a lot of talent left over from last year to make eight wins realistic.

Daniel R. Bonow
Phoenix, Ariz.

Don't sell Iowa State (ranked No. 91 in SPORT's September College Football Preview) short this year. Coach Dan McCarney was with coach Hayden Fry of the Iowa Hawkeyes. McCarney and Fry took a struggling program—19 straight losing seasons—and went from the doormat of the Big Ten to the Rose Bowl—in three years.

McCarney was also a success at Wisconsin with head coach Barry Alvarez. The two turned the hapless Badgers around and they went to the Rose Bowl. Now at Iowa State, look for more great things from McCarney. He has a winning formula and a rebuilding plan. Don't be surprised if Iowa State finishes 6-5 this year as opposed to last season's 2-9 record.

Name withheld
E-mail

IN & OUT TO LUNCH

I was astonished when I caught sight of the "In & Out" column in Sport Talk (September). Out with Michael Johnson? I know the media is hypercritical of athletes and has a tendency to write them off as finished too hastily, but this is ridiculous. How can a man who wins the 400 while not fully recovered from injury be considered finished? Michael is an athlete, a phenomenal one in my book, but he's also human. So before one writes off a great athlete, be so careful with thy tongue.

Joan Harrison
E-mail

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Reader Emil rates Aikman with the all-time QB greats.

NFL PREVIEW

I very much enjoy your NFL preview issue (August). I keep it handy for review and compare how you predicted 'em against how they actually fare during the season. However, I must make one point. At precisely what time did sports reporting become financial reporting? I am so bored with articles about a player's legal problems, drug addictions and/or money he received or would have received if a particular scenario would have taken place. Sports reporters and sports talk show hosts do this often. It is my view that relating "facts" about a player's contract or legal woes isn't journalism. The next wave of "good" writers will be investigative. Stop paying writers for poor performance and mediocre results.

Name withheld
E-mail

NOT SMART

While reading the September issue, I got to the "Get Smart" column and was surprised to read that Jeff Weinstock considers golfer Fuzzy Zoeller's comments about Tiger Woods and fried chicken and collard greens as a "blooper." Excusing racism as some kind of funny mistake shows me that Mr. Weinstock is even more ignorant than Zoeller.

Justin Davis
Lansing, Mich.

MORE PUCKS, PLEASE

As a subscriber of SPORT, I am writing to show my disappointment in the lack of coverage hockey is given. When the Stanley Cup Finals were going on, pro basketball and pro football received more attention even though football was out of season. I think this is unfair to your readers who enjoy hockey.

Evan Sottosanti
E-mail

OOPS

Because of printing errors, the following photographer credits were left out of our October issue: E.J. Camp, lead photograph for "Arli$$ & Bonds," and Tom DiPace, who shot our cover. The illustrator for Coop's World was John McKinley.

A sampling of opinions from the staff

Salaries • Costly Shoes • NASCAR • Reinsdorf

DAREDEVILS

SAD STORY

PAUL JOHNSON

Shawn Kemp will make around $3.6 million this year. He's bothered by this. Why? Certainly, since the time he signed his seven-year deal in 1994, inflation hasn't so completely altered the economic landscape as to make $3½ million a paltry sum. Could it be because lesser players rake in more? Or that teammate Jim McIlvaine is making only $100,000 less this year? It seems so, and here's a lesson you need not be spiritual to appreciate.

The book of Matthew contains the Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard. In it, a vineyard owner hires day laborers, beginning early in the morning and continuing throughout the day, even to the last hour of work. At quitting time, the owner offers the same sum to all who labored for him that day, which upsets the ones who started early. The owner wonders why, reasoning that the price was fair to them when they started, and nothing with their individual situation had changed. The question: Why can't more athletes, considering their relative great situation and fortune, accept the amount they agreed to, even if they signed the deal early in the day?

FOOT FAULT

BILL LADSON

I'm getting sick and tired of black people criticizing corporate America and professional athletes for not speaking out against the youth crimes in our inner cities. Last July, I attended a seminar for the National Association of Black Journalists. The topic: Are pro sports bad for black America? What bothered me wasn't so much the answers to this particular question but the unnecessary bashing of Nike and Michael Jordan, who are blamed for the violence supposedly caused by their expensive basketball shoes. It's neither Nike's job nor Jordan's to teach our inner-city kids right from wrong. That duty belongs to the parents. The ungodly act of someone killing a 15-year-old boy over a pair of Air Jordans is by no means a reflection on an athlete or a shoe company. Let's not be naive here. We've known for almost a decade the destruction those shoes have caused in poor neighborhoods. If the parents continue to buy them, then they are as much to blame for the violence as the gangbangers.

NASCAR ON THE BRAIN

NORB GARRETT

This scene takes place just about every Monday morning, somewhere in Manhattan.

ME: Hey, Doc.

DR. SPORTS: Velcome, my sports-crazed friend. (The good doctor has kind of a Sergeant Shultz of "Hogan's Heroes" thing going for him.) Vat is your problem today?

ME: Same deal, Doc. I'm sitting there this weekend, sports options galore on TV, and somehow I continue to end up watching those damn cars.

DR. SPORTS: Ah, zee dreaded NASCAR again?

ME: Yup. I mean, I don't even like cars. Heck, I never change the oil in mine. My friends think I'm nuts. They say it's not a sport, that the drivers aren't athletes. I agree to a certain extent, but these guys put it all on the line, man. They're daredevils.

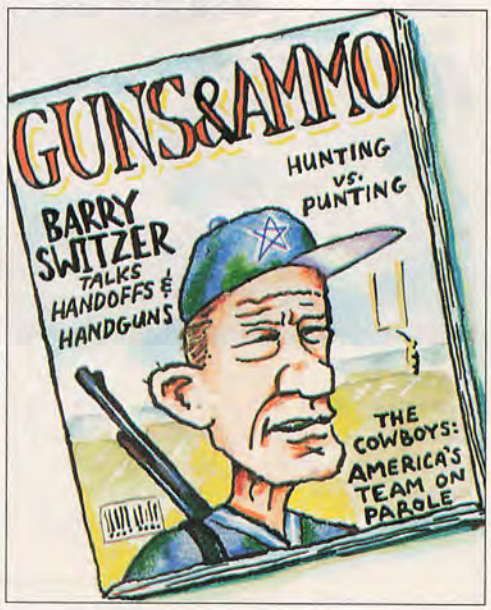
DR. SPORTS: Ah-hah. Zo you vant action, zee living on zee edge. You vant to see who escapes zee danger and vins the race.

ME: Well, that's the crazy thing. Winning almost doesn't matter in NASCAR, Doc. Last year, a guy who won 10 races came in second to a guy who won just two. Their point system rewards consistency even if it means mediocrity. The same thing could happen this year, which really stinks.

DR. SPORTS: Zounds to me like I need to spend time with zee NASCAR folks to zee vats going on in their heads too. Und by the vay, change your oil every 3,000 miles.

Extra Point

BY BOB ECKSTEIN



CHICAGO DOPE

STEVE GORDON

By now, we've all heard the quote: "Anyone who thinks this White Sox team will catch Cleveland is crazy." That came from the big mouth of Chicago White Sox owner Jerry Reinsdorf, who was trying to justify why he dealt his Sox's two most valued pitchers, Roberto Hernandez and Wilson Alvarez, in the heat of a pennant race. Of course, Reinsdorf insists his White Sox weren't in a pennant race, despite trailing the Indians by just 3½ game in the AL Central with two months left in the season. Come again?

What happened here is tragically clear. Reinsdorf, you see, is also the owner of the NBA's Bulls, whose coach had just been awarded a $5.7 million contract extension by the owner to keep the NBA's richest player, Michael Jordan, happy. What happened? To pay for the success of his high-priced Bulls, Reinsdorf sold out his White Sox.

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Sport
LockerRoom
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COURTESY OF ADIDAS

BASKETBALL

America's Most Wanted

THIS PAST SUMMER, HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS Rashard Lewis and Korleone Young established themselves as the top two players of the class of '98. A while back, when George of the Jungle and Godzilla were just campy UHF TV shows, not full-length motion pictures, being the class of your high school class on the hardwood meant an all-expense-paid, four-year ride to Tobacco Road.

Not any longer.

Three years ago, Minnesota's Kevin Garnett planted a new get-rich-quick scheme in the fertile minds of every teenage hoopster when he became the first player since Moses Malone to successfully jump from high school to the pros. Two years ago, three high schoolers attempted the quantum leap, two successfully (Kobe Bryant and Jermaine O'Neal), the third unsuccessfully (South Carolina youngster Taj McDavid, who went undrafted and is still trying to piece his life together). This past summer, 6-foot-8 high schooler Tracy McGrady hit the jackpot when he was picked ninth overall by the NBA's Toronto Raptors and inked a $12 million sneaker and apparel deal with Adidas.

"It's terrible, but now kids are thinking, 'How can going to college compare to getting a $12 million sneaker deal?' " says respected high school talent evaluator Bob Gibbons. "I don't see any end in sight to these early entries because kids are being targeted by certain individuals who promise them cars, sneaker deals, you name it."

Lewis (pictured) and Young appear to be the next candidates to sign shoe deals shortly after dropping off their prom

continued on pg. 28

COLLEGE OR COINAGE?

The skinny on five high school blue-chippers and their odds of turning pro

RASHARD LEWIS
Odds: 1-2
Height: 6-11
School: Elsik (Texas) High
Vitals: Academic shortcomings and outstanding summer performances make Lewis the best bet to turn pro after he returns his high school cap and gown.

KORLEONE YOUNG
Odds: even
Height: 6-8
School: Hargrave Military Academy (Va.)
Vitals: Like Lewis, poor academics could make this 210-pounder skip college and sign on with the Swoosh.

ERNEST BROWN
Odds: 5-1
Height: 6-10
School: St. Raymond's (N.Y.)
Vitals: Has said he doesn't want to go to college; will probably head overseas because he's as thin as a Q-Tip and not ready for the NBA.

STROMILE SWIFT
Odds: 25-1
Height: 6-9
School: Shreveport (La.) Fair Park
Vitals: Will probably attend college—Georgetown is considered a prohibitive favorite, followed by LSU, Tulane and North Carolina.

DAN GADZURIC
Odds: 25-1
Height: 6-11
School: Gov. Dummer Academy, Byfield, Mass.
Vitals: Darkhorse has emerged as a potential NBA candidate. Also considering Cal, UCLA, Duke, Kentucky and Kansas.

QUICK TAKE

Hockey at the Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, will feature two firsts: teams made up of pros and a women's competition. Here are two stars to watch—Brendan Shanahan of the Red Wings and Cammi Granato of Team USA:

	Shanahan	Granato
Age	28	26
Height	6-3	5-7
Weight	218	140
Nickname	Shanny (and others unfit for print)	Granny ("I'm one of the older players")
Best Known For	Quick release	Finesse play
Hockey Hero	Steve Yzerman	Wayne Gretzky
Pregame Superstition	Changes skate laces	Plays with toy frog Floppy
Number of Stitches	More than 200	None ("We wear face shields")
Teeth Lost	Four	None ... but one chipped
Championships	Stanley Cup with Detroit ('97)	ECAC titles with Providence College ('92, '93)
Favorite Goal	Empty-netter that clinched Western Conference finals vs. Colorado ('97)	Game-winner vs. Finland in World Championship semifinals ('94)
Most Memorable Fight	"It's been beaten out of my mind"	One-punch KO of cross-checking antagonist
Second-Favorite Contact Sport	Lacrosse	Football (Chicago Bears-style)
Favorite Food	Steak	Pasta
Favorite TV Show	Seinfeld	Oprah
Pro Athlete Brother	Brian, lacrosse player in Canada	Tony, left wing with NHL's San Jose Sharks
Most Feared Rivals	U.S., Russia, Sweden, Finland	Canada, Finland

Memories of 1980's Miracle on Ice

Shanahan: "I was 11 years old and I watched the upset of the Russians on TV. After Canada got eliminated, we Canadians adopted the U.S. as our team. I think the whole world did."

Granato: I was at a rink practicing when the U.S. beat Finland for the gold. When they announced it on the p.a. system, we all went nuts, throwing our sticks and jumping on each other."

Culpepper

TRENDS

Where the Black QBs Rhome

More and more African-American quarterbacks are getting a shot in the NFL these days, and nobody knows this better than quarterbacks coach Jerry Rhome.

During his 22-year NFL career, Rhome has tutored some of the league's most high-profile black QBs—Warren Moon, Doug Williams, Steve McNair and currently Tony Banks. No small measure of success has accompanied these QBs, most notably Moon and Williams, whose Redskins won the 1988 Super Bowl to make him the only black quarterback to start for a Super Bowl champion.

Rhome, who is white, has watched the slow-yet-steady progress as more black athletes are getting a shot at the QB spot in the NFL.

"There's a lot of good black athletes playing in this league," says Rhome, a former Tulsa quarterback and Heisman Trophy runner-up in 1964. "Why shouldn't there be some of them playing quarterback?"

Good question. Progress is being made, however. This year, four black QBs were Opening Week starters in the NFL—McNair (Tennessee), Banks (St. Louis), Pittsburgh's Kordell Stewart and Cincinnati's Jeff Blake—and the Philadelphia Eagles' Rodney Peete is a part-time starter.

The progress, which can be partially attributed to the success of some of Rhome's students, is also seen in the college ranks. This season, seven black QBs were listed as starters for preseason Top 25 teams. An eighth, however, is the most likely to find his way fastest to an NFL huddle.

Rhome

McNair

Central Florida quarterback Daunte Culpepper has NFL scouts drooling. At 6-foot-4, 235 pounds, Culpepper is the prototypical NFL gunslinger—he threw for 2,565 yards and 19 touchdowns last year. Not so typically, he runs the 40 in 4.6 seconds. Just a junior, Culpepper will have to decide whether he wants to bypass his senior year, but should he opt for the NFL, don't be surprised to see him drafted as high as third overall, where McNair was chosen in '95, start as a rookie as Banks did last year, throw for 40,000 yards in a career like Moon has, or guide his team to a Super Bowl as Williams did. Others to watch: Ohio State's Stanley Jackson, Syracuse's Donovan McNabb and Texas' James Brown. You can be sure Rhome is watching.

Coop's World

Illustrated By John McKinley

Cooper is today's sports fan. He gets out to the games, shoots hoops with his buddies and talks sports until he drops. Leaving the politically correct analysis for the news jockies, Coop calls it as he sees it.

No "I" in MLS

Hey, can you believe this stuff? Only like a year after the first legit U.S. pro soccer league in years gets going, a handful of MLS players file a lawsuit demanding more freedom and more cash. C'mon guys, give this thing a chance. Most Americans don't even acknowledge that a pro soccer league exists here—it's up to you to help establish it. If the current deal's got you in a pinch, leave. The Bundesliga in Germany's always looking for bench-warmers.

Ice the Two-Line Pass Rule

Will the NHL rules committee please wake up! If you're looking for a way to liven up the league, how about Zamboni demolition derbies between periods? What fun, eh? Seriously, you've gotta ditch the two-line pass rule. If this league needs anything, it's more scoring and excitement. What's the big deal anyway? So you get some cherry pickers. Mario Lemieux was one of the great cherry pickers of all time.

Baseball Review '97

Best Trade: OK, it messed up my rotiss team, but I loved the Braves-Indians deal that sent Kenny Lofton to Atlanta for Dave Justice and Marquis Grissom. A great way to kick off the baseball season.

Worst Trade: The White Sox's deal in midseason with San Francisco (Wilson Alvarez, Roberto Hernandez and Danny Darwin for prospects) has to rate as one of the biggest embarrassments in sports. How does an owner quit on a team that's a few games out of first in July?

Biggest Surprise (team): Pirates. You gotta love the logic-busting Bucs, who collectively made less money than Albert Belle last season.

Biggest Surprise (player): Nomar Garciaparra, Red Sox. Everyone who followed this guy at Georgia Tech knew he'd be good, but this good, this fast?

LEFT: PAUL CHAPMAN/BRSP; BRUCE BENNETT/B. BENNETT STUDIOS; C. ANDERSON/B. BENNETT STUDIOS. HEAD SHOTS: BILL STOVER/ST. LOUIS RAMS; TOM DIPACE.

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TALE OF THE TAPE

NASCAR FILE

Winston Cup Races in '97: 33
Attendance: 5.58 million for 32 races in '96
Most Wins: Richard Petty, 200
Most Winston Cup Championships: Richard Petty and Dale Earnhardt, 7
Fastest-ever Recorded Lap Time: Bill Elliott in a Ford Thunderbird at Talladega, May 3, 1987, 212.809 mph
Most Money Won in Season: Jeff Gordon, $4,347,343 (1995) (Jeff can eclipse it this year)

CAUTIONS
Not a stat the NASCAR folks like to acknowledge, but Winston Cup races of 500 laps average roughly nine caution flags—everything from crashes to debris on the track. The latter is affectionately termed by pit crews as "The Frenchman is on the Track."

THE FANS
62% Male
64% Married
38% Some College/College Grad
29% Household Incomes of $50,000+
72% Employed full time
27% Professional/Managerial

WINDSHIELD
Today's windshields on NASCAR race cars are made of Lexan, which is more durable than the standard windshield and more resistant to being broken during competition.

GAS
NASCAR cars use a special leaded racing fuel. Miles Per Gallon: 4-6. Refills per 500-lap race: 8 (approx.) Tank size: 22 gallons

SURFACE
NASCAR races on two types of track surfaces, asphalt (pictured here at New Hampshire Motor Speedway) and concrete, although there are just two of those (Dover and Bristol). Asphalt tracks tend to get hotter, which allows tires to stick more, making for tighter racing. Most drivers prefer asphalt to concrete because concrete tracks tend to tear through tires more quickly. Concrete tracks, however, don't allow for as much side-by-side racing in the turns.

SPONSORS
Primary sponsor gets the hood and other prominent positions on the car, such as back panels. Costs vary, but you're talking anywhere from $2-5 million for the Corn Flakes or Coors Light spots. Secondary sponsors ante from $50,000 to $250,000 for everything from stickers on the door to sponsorship of the TV panel or rear spoiler.

BURNING RUBBER
In a typical 500-mile NASCAR race, cars will go through as many as five sets of tires, but it varies by track surface. A set of four Goodyear racing radial tires costs about $1,600. (See *Surface*). One race team will burn through roughly $480,000 in tires in 32 races.

NASCAR VERSION VS. FACTORY MODEL
For point of reference, here's a normal factory model 1997 Chevrolet Monte Carlo compared with the pictured Monte Carlos:

	NASCAR	Factory Model
Retail Price	$100,000 (est.)	$21,000
MPG	4-6	17-26
Octane	104	87
Horsepower	700-plus	215
Weight	3,400 lbs.	2,600 lbs.

COST TO PLAY
Want to play race car owner? It costs an average race team $4-6 million a year to race one car for a season

ANATOMY OF THE GAME

Burning Rubber

In case you hadn't noticed, auto racing is quite the rage these days, and no association has succeeded as well as NASCAR at grabbing the attention of John Q. Public (and family). NASCAR races are popping up around the country more quickly than Starbucks franchises, so we decided to take a closer look at the sport

BRIAN SPURLOCK

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EVERY SUNDAY, STEVE YOUNG SPENDS 60 MINUTES DESTROYING HIS HAIR.

AND 90 SECONDS BRINGING IT BACK.

THE HIGH PERFORMANCE SHAMPOO THAT CONDITIONS TOO.

continued from pg.23

dates. The 6-foot-11 Lewis burst onto the scene over the summer with his performance at the Adidas ABCD Camp, followed by a series of strong efforts at various AAU events.

"NBA teams have approached us and flat-out told us that Rashard would be a definite lottery pick," says Josh Pastner, Lewis' AAU coach. "He has the talent and work ethic to be the Michael Jordan of the next millennium. But we want him to be in a position academically where he has a choice between college and the NBA."

Of course you do, Josh. Because when Pastner isn't serving as one of the coaches (along with his father Hal) of the AAU Houston Hoops, he's a sophomore scholarship player for defending national champion Arizona (which is—surprise, surprise—the front-runner for Lewis' services should he get his academics in order and choose college).

"We would never steer Rashard toward Arizona," says Pastner. "We have 40 players from our AAU program at different Division I schools, and in every case we did what was best for that particular kid. Rashard will be no different."

No different than Bryant or McGrady, it appears. Each was the most gifted player at the Adidas camp prior to starting his senior year of high school—Bryant in the summer of 1995, McGrady in the summer of '96. Less than 12 months later, both inked sneaker deals with, you guessed it, Adidas.

"It's terrible, but now kids are thinking, 'How can going to college compare to getting a $12 million sneaker deal?' I don't see any end in sight."

–Bob Gibbons, high school talent evaluator

Tired of getting shut out of the burgeoning teen early-entry market, Nike—which lost in a bidding war for McGrady—has its sights set on Young, a 6-8, 210-pounder from Wichita, Kan. Though his basketball talents are prodigious, Young is struggling academically, making it unlikely that he'll qualify to play as a college freshman. Young has transferred for his senior season to the more disciplined lifestyle at Hargrave (Va.) Military Academy, but it could be too little, too late.

"This could be the year we have both major sneaker companies with their own straight-out-of-high school kid," says Gibbons. "Rashard Lewis with Adidas and Korleone Young with Nike. Where will it all end?"

There's no end in sight. High school junior DerMarr Johnson, whose perimeter game belies his 6-9 frame, is already talking about going pro in 1999. And sneaker companies already are battling to get their hooks into 6-10 Californian Tyson Chandler, a ninth-grader.

TRAINING TIPS

Looking Sharpe

Bodybuilding with Purpose

DENVER BRONCOS TIGHT END SHANNON Sharpe enjoys being big, but his interest in bodybuilding goes past the aesthetic.

"I always try to get as strong as I possibly can because my body takes a constant pounding during the season," says the 6-2, 225-pound, five-time Pro Bowler. "It helps to ward off injury. I would think that if I didn't lift as much as I do, I'd probably be much more susceptible to injury."

Routine

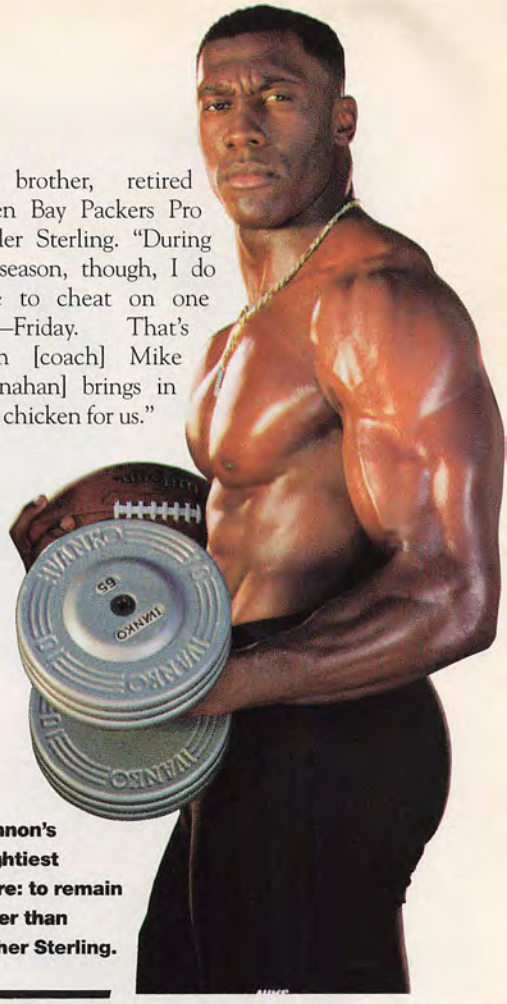
IN-SEASON
- Lifts four times a week
- Unlike most football players, stays away from power cleans and deadlifts

OFF-SEASON
- Lifts six times a week
- Eats six times a day, but limits intake to 3,200 calories per day

Sharpe discovered the weighty advantage an increased build can have when as a freshman at Savannah State (Ga.) back in '86 he was routinely assigned to block defenders who outweighed him by 50 or more pounds. Bodybuilding soon became a passion; Sharpe is a big fan of the competitive bodybuilding scene and has a profound respect for the participants for their dedication and discipline.

He occasionally muses about a post-football career in the sport, yet doesn't regret having to currently tailor his lifting program for the rigors of football. "I realize that football pays the bills," he says. "I'm grateful to have the opportunity to be an NFL player."

He follows a rigorous diet—for the most part. "In the off-season, I'm really strict," says Sharpe, who says he's happy with his size so long as he's bigger than his brother, retired Green Bay Packers Pro Bowler Sterling. "During the season, though, I do have to cheat on one day—Friday. That's when [coach] Mike [Shanahan] brings in fried chicken for us."



Shannon's weightiest desire: to remain bigger than brother Sterling.

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Basketball

WHERE ARE YOU NOW?

John Havlicek

Vitals: Born April 8, 1940, in Martins Ferry, Ohio. Boyhood friend of baseball Hall of Famer Phil Niekro. Averaged 20 points and six rebounds per game in 16 seasons with the Boston Celtics. Guided the Celts to eight NBA titles in the '60s and '70s. Elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in 1983.

Nickname: "Hondo"

Best Known For: Deflecting Hal Greer's inbounds pass to teammate Sam Jones, who dribbled out the remaining five seconds to give the Celtics a 110-109 victory over the Philadelphia 76ers in Game 7 of the 1965 Eastern Conference finals. "Havlicek stole the ball!" exclaimed longtime Celtics announcer Johnny Most, uttering one of the most famous broadcast calls of all time.

Where Is He Now: Owns several Wendy's restaurants in Westchester, N.Y.

Residence: Lives in Weston, Mass., with his wife, Beth. He's been married for 30 years and has two children, Chris (27) and Jill (24).

SPORT MORPH

John Elway, Broncos QB ----------► Jim Carrey, movie star

FUN & GAMES

Looking for ways to satiate that sports hunger? We put the items below to the test so you can decide whether or not they're worth your time.

BOOKS

Title: *The Guide to Careers in Sports*
Author: Len Karlin
Publisher: E.M. Guild, Inc.
Price: $17.95/USA; 22.95/CANADA

"... It is next to impossible to break into this industry without first serving an internship," the no-nonsense Karlin writes at the outset before explaining how to go about serving one. Though the book, which provides personnel listings and addresses for all the major professional teams, is a valuable tool on the whole, it's not without its shortcomings. More attention should have been devoted to real-life stories of people in the business explaining how they broke through. Also, the importance of networking is not fully addressed. In the real world, who you know is often as important as what you know.

CD-ROMS

Game: *Backyard Baseball*
Maker: Humongous Entertainment
Category: CD-ROM

Established in 1992, Humongous Entertainment is known for pushing the edge in interactive story-telling. Its latest endeavor is a series of sports titles for kids called Junior Sports—the first series of sports computer games designed for, and featuring, kids. Its first offering, Backyard Baseball, has no $5 million athletes. Instead, you pick from among 30 neighborhood kids (who may have short attention spans, for example, or might not want to get their clothes dirty) and perform on a variety of playing fields, including a playground, sandlot, parking lot and stadium. Available on CD-ROM for Windows and Macintosh.

Game: *Aaron vs. Ruth: Battle of the Big Bats*
Maker: Mindscape
Category: CD-ROM

Mindscape has devised and developed a product with a seemingly incongruous mix: a video game for the PC that features players of past eras. Motion capture technology, which simulates actual players' movements, was produced through the study of old video footage. Among the players featured are 34 Hall of Famers, Negro League stars and even Japanese home run king Sadaharu Oh. Vintage ballparks (the Polo Grounds, Ebbets Field) and classic uniforms are all historically accurate. The gameplay is solid too, but Aaron vs. Ruth's best feature is the old-time, realistic feel. Aaron vs. Ruth will bring you back.

ACCESSORIES

Item: *Team Mouse*
Category: Computer products

In 1994, business partners Bradley Schlachter and Marc Andres set out to meld two things that hadn't yet been parlayed in the U.S. marketplace: computer accessories and sports logos. Keeping the idea secret while they pursued the licenses for the NHL, NBA, NFL, MLB and more than 100 colleges, Schlachter and Andres ultimately came out with a line of products—mouses and mouse pads, wrist pads, CD wallets, clipboards, coasters, screen savers and more—bearing team logos and quickly made $5 million in the first year of sales. They've cornered the market and are currently featured in CompUSA stores nationwide. Call Team Mouse at (800)-ONTEAM-1.

Send Sport Morph Ideas to sport@petersenpub.com

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Locker Room Editor: Norb Garrett **Contributors:** H.S. to NBA, NASCAR (Bill Doherty); Quick Take (Jeff Ryan); Jerry Rhome (Craig Ellenport); Where Are You Now? (William Ladson); Fun & Games (Paul M. Johnson and Raymond Harper); Training Tips (Paul M. Johnson).

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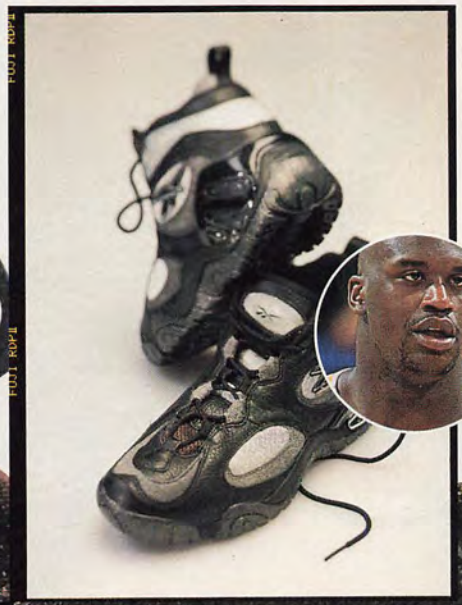
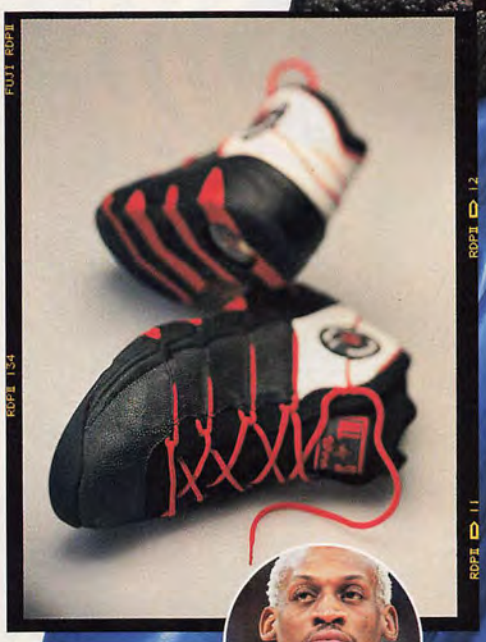
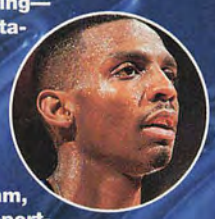
CONVERSE ALL STAR 91 (Dennis Rodman)—Dennis Rodman is the player, the Converse All Star 91 is the shoe. Clearly, Rodman's style is more outrageous than that of the shoe, but Converse designers added one signature detail to set this sneaker apart: a replica of Rodman's sun tattoo, which is on a jewel attached to the back. With a textured leather upper in Rodman's team colors and the classic All-Star ankle patch, you get a combination of tradition, style and performance. Price: $85. Call (800) 428-2667 or check out the Converse web site at www.converse.com.



REEBOK SHAQ STEEL (Shaquille O'Neal)—If you had feet as big as Shaq's, you'd be concerned about the look of your shoe too. Shaq, measuring in at a size 22, prefers a shoe that's simple in design, without a lot of bells and whistles. With Shaq's influence, a design team created a shoe that downplays the style and instead plays into the shape and silhouette of the foot. The Shaq Steel is therefore basic, lightweight and stable in the heel and ankle. It uses Hexalite technology, a cushioning material that disperses shock. Price: $100. For more info, call (800) 648-5550.

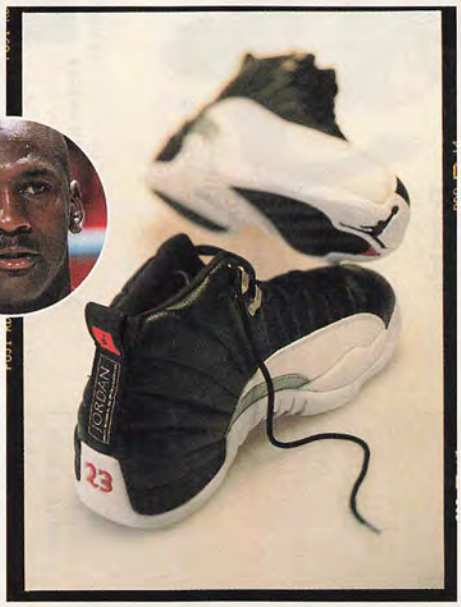


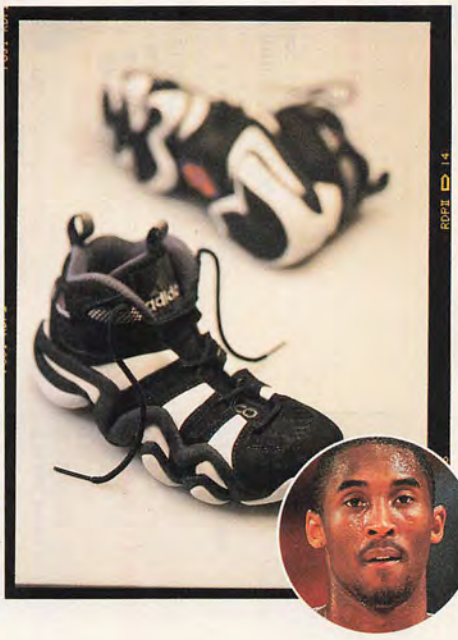
NIKE AIR FOAMPOSITE ONE (Penny Hardaway)—Hardaway's movements—sprinting, cutting, slashing—require versatility and stability in a shoe. The Air Foamposite One employs a new manufacturing technique, melding the upper and midsoles into one solid unit of polyurethane foam, thus protecting and supporting the foot on all sides. The built-in "guard rail" on this midcut shoe gives Hardaway control and cushioning on the court. Just what Penny needs to help him do what he does best: turn on a dime. Price: $180. Find out where to get them at www.nike.com or call (800) 344-NIKE.



NIKE AIR JORDAN XII

(Michael Jordan)—In the looks department, Jordan's a minimalist. He likes clean, simple lines. As for performance, he likes a lightweight, cushioned shoe that allows him to be low to the ground. Nike uses a full-grain leather upper, a carbon fiber spring plate, a full-length Air-Sole unit and a polyurethane midsole to provide a rigid shoe with cushion and control. There's no guarantee you'll play like Jordan, but you'll look like a pro in his shoes. Price: $140. For more info, check out www.nike.com or call 800-344-NIKE.





ADIDAS EQUIPMENT KB8

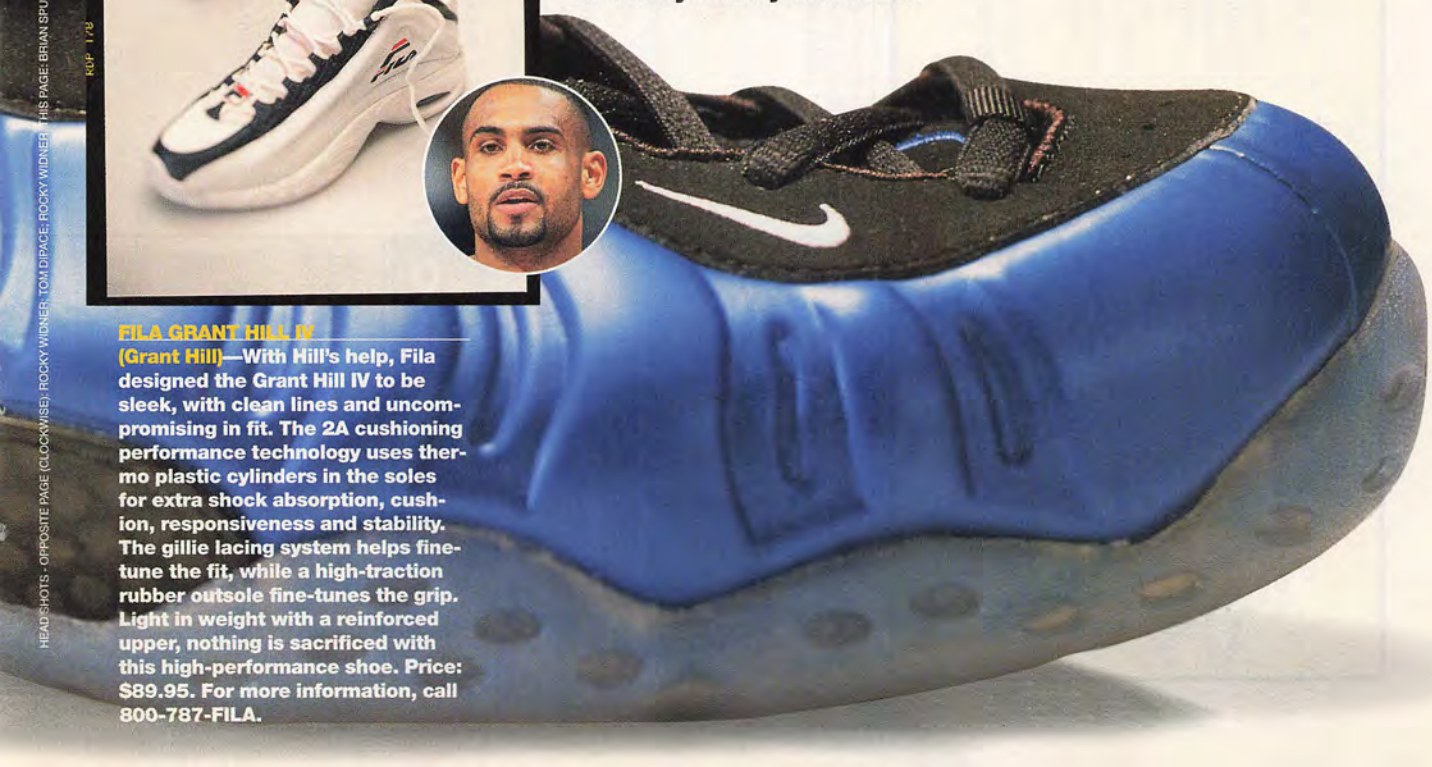
(Kobe Bryant, far right)–"Feet you wear" means the design mimics the natural movement of the foot, identifying pressure points. The L.A. Laker's shoe is shaped to follow the contours of the foot. Stability and traction are the strengths of this sneaker, which is made of compression-molded EVA in its rounded midsole and synthetic leather in the upper. Price: $100. Call (800) 448-1796 for a list of retail stores.

GAME GEAR

Really Big Shoes

It's become a part of the preseason hype machine, right up there with the trades, the contract extensions and the uniform redesigns: What will the NBA's top guns be wearing on their feet this season? Sneaker companies each year seem to come up with shoes that appear to be a cross between space boots and flip-flops, and this year is no different. Converse is making news with its shoes with the introduction of a sneaker featuring a certain individual who has a knack for making as many gossip columns as sports highlight shows, Dennis Rodman (opposite page). Check it out.

Photos by Jeremy Samuelson

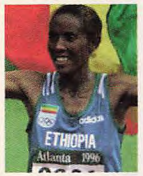


FILA GRANT HILL IV

(Grant Hill)—With Hill's help, Fila designed the Grant Hill IV to be sleek, with clean lines and uncompromising in fit. The 2A cushioning performance technology uses thermo plastic cylinders in the soles for extra shock absorption, cushion, responsiveness and stability. The gillie lacing system helps fine-tune the fit, while a high-traction rubber outsole fine-tunes the grip. Light in weight with a reinforced upper, nothing is sacrificed with this high-performance shoe. Price: $89.95. For more information, call 800-787-FILA.

HEADSHOTS - OPPOSITE PAGE (CLOCKWISE): ROCKY WIDNER; TOM DIPACE; ROCKY WIDNER. THIS PAGE: BRIAN SPURLOCK; MICHAEL ZITO/SPORTSCHROME; ROCKY WIDNER.

Ticket Info: (404) 880-5269
Web Site: www.nascar.com
TV: ESPN



2. ATLANTA
Sport: Track & Field
Event: Atlanta Marathon
Date: Nov. 27
Place/Time: Turner Stadium/7:30 a.m.
Pack that turkey sandwich and munch away while watching this 26.2-mile race.
Ticket Info: Free admission
Web Site: www.atlantatrackclub.org
TV: TBD

3. AUBURN, ALA.
Sport: College Football
Event: Alabama vs. Auburn
Date: Nov. 22
Place/Time: Jordan-Hare Stadium/1 p.m.
Nothing like a backyard brawl to fire up rivalry week.
Ticket Info: (334) 844-9800
Web Site: www.au.edu
TV: ESPN

4. CHICAGO
Sport: Pro Basketball (NBA)
Event: Spurs vs. Bulls
Date: Nov. 3
Place/Time: The United Center/7:30 p.m.
The world champs welcome the NBA's top draft pick, San Antonio rookie Tim Duncan, to the Windy City.
Ticket Info: (312) 455-4114
Web Site: www.nba.com
TV: Sports Channel

5. DENVER
Sport: Football (NFL)
Event: Raiders vs. Broncos
Date: Nov. 24
Place/Time: Mile High Stadium/9 p.m.
Dating back to their inaugural season in 1960, the Raiders are an impressive 48-23-2 against the Broncos.
Ticket Info: (303) 649-9000
Web Site: www.nfl.com
TV: ABC

6. GREEN BAY, WIS.
Sport: Football (NFL)
Event: Cowboys vs. Packers
Ticket Info: (414) 496-5700
Web Site: www.nfl.com
TV: FOX

7. INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Sport: Horse racing
Event: The Breeders Cup
Date: Nov. 8
Place/Time: Hollywood Park
Can anyone harness jockey Jerry Bailey? Last year, he rode Boston Harbor to a fourth-consecutive first-place finish at the Breeders Cup.
Ticket Info: (310) 419-1500
Web Site: www.breederscup.com
TV: ABC

8. LA QUINTA, CALIF.
Sport: Golf (PGA)
Event: The Skins Game
Date: Nov. 29-30
Place/Time: TBD
Weekend hackers only dream of playing for big bucks on each hole as the golf pros do at the Skins Game. Last year, Fred Couples took home the most Skins for the third consecutive year.
Ticket Info: TBD
Web Site: www.pgatour.com
TV: ABC

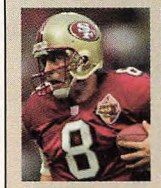
9. LAS VEGAS
Sport: Bowling (Ladies Professional Bowlers Tour)
Event: Sam's Town Invitational
Date: Nov. 15-21
Place/Time: Sam's Town Bowling Center
You gamble, you bowl, you gamble, you bowl. Sound fun? This much we know: Carol Gianotti-Block won this tournament last year and could collect another $17,000 if she successfully defends her title.
Ticket Info: (702) 456-7777
Web Site: www.lpbt.com
TV: TBD

10. MYRTLE BEACH, S.C.
Sport: Golf (Senior PGA Tour)
Event: Energizer Senior Tour Championship
Date: Nov. 6-9
Place/Time: The Dunes Golf & Beach Club
A $1.7 million purse makes this event the richest on the Senior Tour. And who said retirement was boring?
Ticket Info: (803) 444-4782
Web Site: www.pgatour.com
TV: ESPN
Web Site: www.nhl.com
TV: MSG

12. NEW YORK
Sport: Track & Field
Event: New York Marathon
Date: Nov. 2
Place/Time: Staten Island/9 a.m.
The Cheat Police will be closely guarding the city's subways to make sure no chiselers make their way to victory lane.
Ticket Info: Free admission
Web Site: www.nyrrc.org/mar.htm
TV: TBD

13. LINCOLN, NEB.
Sport: College Football
Event: Oklahoma at Nebraska
Date: Nov. 1
Place/Time: Memorial Stadium/12:30 p.m.
The once-powerful Sooners want nothing more than to ruin the Huskers' weekend by exacting revenge for an embarrassing 73-21 pasting last November.
Ticket Info: (402) 472-3111
Web Site: www.huskers.unl.edu
TV: ABC

14. PASADENA, CALIF.
Sport: College Football
Event: USC vs. UCLA
Date: Nov. 22
Place/Time: Rose Bowl/1 p.m.
The battle for the City of Angels is always a classic, but last year was one for the



Event: Panthers vs. 49ers
Date: Nov. 16
Place/Time: 3Com Park at Candlestick Point/4 p.m.
Trolley cars. The beautiful bay. Dungeness crabs. The Panthers. SCREECH—hold it! These guys always ruin the Niners' party. Since Carolina joined the NFL two years ago, the Panthers have won three of four.
Ticket Info: (408) 727-4949
Web Site: www.nfl.com
TV: FOX

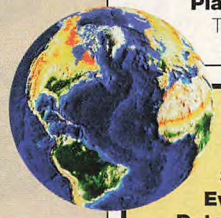
October
At a Glance

OCT. 18: USC vs. Notre Dame (CFB)
Tickets: (219) 631-7356
Internet: www.und.com

OCT. 18: World Series (MLB)
Tickets: TBD
Internet: www.majorleaguebaseball.com

OCT. 19: Patriots vs. Jets (NFL)
Tickets: (516) 560-8200
Internet: www.nfl.com

OCT. 27: Packers vs. Patriots (NFL)
Tickets: (508) 543-8200
Internet: www.nfl.com



International

CANADA
Sport: Football (CFL)
Event: The Grey Cup
Date: Nov. 16
Place/Time: Commonwealth Stadium, Edmonton, Alberta/6:30 p.m.
The field's bigger and guys are running all over the place before the ball's snapped, but it's football and downright entertaining. Doug Flutie and the Toronto Argonauts are the defending CFL champs.
Ticket Info: (800) 667-3757
Web Site: www.cfl.ca
TV: TBD

MOSCOW
Sport: Tennis (ATP Tour)
Event: Kremlin Cup
Date: Nov. 4-10
Place/Time: Olympic Stadium
Russian born Yevgeny Kafelnikov had the home-town crowd on his side last year but still lost to Goran Ivanisevic in the finals, 6-3, 1-6, 3-6.
Ticket Info: (212) 808-4750
Web Site: www.atptour.com
TV: FOX/Sports Channel

PERTH, AUSTRALIA
Sport: Triathlon
Event: Triathlon World Championship
Date: Nov. 16
Place/Time: Esplanade Park/6:30 a.m.
The winner of this inaugural event earns a cool $9,000. Grant Hackett is the favorite.
Ticket Info: Free admission
Web Site: trifest.highway1.com.au
TV: TBD

Edited by: William Ladson **Note:** If you'd like to submit a listing, please e-mail us at sport@petersenpub.com

CLOCKWISE FROM BOTTOM-LEFT: TOM DIPACE; JAMIE SQUIRE/ALLSPORT; AL BELLO/ALLSPORT; DAVID TAYLOR/ALLSPORT; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN; OTTO GREULE JR./ALLSPORT; JULIAN HERBERT/ALLSPORT. BOTTOM-RIGHT: BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; ALLSPORT.

highlights

on the tube: nfl
- Nov. 2: Cowboys at 49ers (FOX)
- Nov. 9: Jets at Dolphins (NBC)
- Nov. 16: Raiders at Chargers (ESPN)
- Nov. 30: 49ers at Chiefs (FOX)

on the tube: coll. f'ball
- Nov. 8: Michigan at Penn St. (ABC)
- Nov. 8: Florida St. at N. Carolina (ESPN)
- Nov. 15: Notre Dame at LSU (NBC)
- Nov. 28: Nebraska at Colorado (ABC)

on the tube: nba
- Nov. 7: Magic at Bulls (TBS)
- Nov.11: Spurs at Timberwolves (TNT)
- Nov. 18: Knicks at Rockets (TNT)
- Nov. 25: Miami at Lakers (TNT)

games people play
Beginning Nov. 24 in Beloit, Wis., Patch Products and Tim "Game Boy" Walsh sponsor National Game and Puzzle Week, intended to stoke awareness of the history and value surrounding board games. Call (608) 362-6896.

Sport CALENDAR

Get Up and Go!

Monthly guide to some of sports' most alluring events

November Schedule of Events

1. ATLANTA
Sport: Auto Racing
Event: NAPA 500
Date: Nov. 16
Place/Time: Atlanta Motor Speedway/TBD
They should call this the Labonte Brothers Open—last year Bobby won the race, while Terry won the Winston Cup Championship.

Date: Nov. 23
Place/Time: Lambeau Field/1 p.m.
This could have been The Rematch, but Carolina thwarted a Cowboys-Pack postseason showdown by knocking the 'Boys out. The Super Bowl champs attempt to end a six-game skid in the Brett Favre era vs. America's Team.

11. NEW YORK
Sport: Hockey (NHL)
Event: Canucks vs. Rangers
Date: Nov. 25
Place/Time: Madison Square Garden/7:30 p.m.
To boo or to cheer, that is the question for New Yorkers when Mark Messier makes his first Garden appearance after bolting for Vancouver.
Ticket Info: (212) 465-6486

books. UCLA rallied from 17 down to outlast the Trojans in overtime, 48-41, for the Bruins' sixth straight win over the Trojans.
Ticket Info: (310) UCLA-WIN
Web Site: www.ucla.udu
TV: TBD

15. SAN FRANCISCO
Sport: Football (NFL)

There's one thing this breakfast doesn't come with...

a check.

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Just every morning.

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Alabama
- Decatur
- Gulf Shores
- Opelika
- ⊶ Pelham
- Pell City

Arizona
- Flagstaff/Lucky Lane
- ⊶ Flagstaff/Woodlands
- Holbrook
- ⊶ Mesa
- Phoenix/Airport North
- Phoenix/Suites
- Tempe/Suites

Arkansas
- Dumas
- Jonesboro
- Lake Village
- Little Rock
- Russellville
- Wheatley

California
- Anaheim/Disneyland Area
- Anaheim/Disneyland N.
- Corona
- ⊶ Costa Mesa
- ⊶ Eureka
- Fountain Valley
- ⊶ Hollywood
- Inglewood
- La Mesa
- Los Angeles
- Monterey/Carmel Hill
- Monterey/Freemont St.
- Mountain View
- ⊶ Oakhurst
- San Diego/Central North
- San Diego/Harborview
- San Diego/South Bay
- ⊶ San Francisco/Downtown
- ⊶ San Francisco/Half Moon Bay
- ⊶ San Francisco/Lombard St.
- ⊶ Santa Cruz
- ⊶ Santa Rosa
- Sunset Beach
- ⊶ Torrance
- Venice/Marina Del Rey
- Whittier

Colorado
- Cortez
- Craig
- Durango
- Ft. Collins
- Gunnison
- Northglenn

Connecticut
- ⊶ New Haven/Branford

District of Columbia
- Washington/Beltsville, MD
- Washington/Laurel, MD
- Washington/New York Ave.

Florida
- ⊶ Alachua
- Clearwater
- Clearwater Beach
- Daytona Beach
- Destin/Niceville
- Fort Myers
- Gainesville
- Key Largo
- Marianna
- ⊶ Miami
- Orlando/East Colonial Dr.
- Orlando/Florida Mall
- Orlando/Kissimmee
- ⊶ Orlando/Universal Studios East
- Pensacola
- Sarasota
- St. Augustine Beach
- St. Petersburg
- Tallahassee
- Tampa

Georgia
- ⊶ Acworth
- Adairsville
- Albany
- Atlanta/Conyers
- ⊶ Atlanta/Decatur
- Atlanta/Forest Park
- ⊶ Atlanta/Marietta
- Atlanta/Union City
- Augusta/Belair Frontage Rd.
- ⊶ Augusta/Gordon Hwy.
- Brunswick
- Calhoun
- Camilla
- Cartersville
- Commerce
- Duluth
- Griffin
- Helen
- Newnan
- ⊶ Perry
- Port Wentworth
- Stockbridge
- Suwanee
- Thomasville
- Thomson
- Tifton
- ⊶ Townsend

Illinois
- Bowling Brook
- Collinsville
- Decatur
- Flora
- Joliet
- O'Fallon
- ⊶ Pontoon Beach
- Rockford
- Springfield/North
- ⊶ Springfield/South
- ⊶ Urbana
- Vandalia
- Vienna

Indiana
- Anderson
- Bloomington
- Edinburgh
- Fishers
- ⊶ Tell City

Iowa
- Cedar Rapids
- ⊶ Evansdale
- Newton
- Spirit Lake
- Williamsburg

Kansas
- Hays

Kentucky
- Elizabethtown
- Franklin

Louisiana
- Luling
- ⊶ Metairie
- ⊶ Monroe
- Ruston

Maryland
- Ocean City

Michigan
- Dearborn
- Grand Rapids
- Lansing
- ⊶ Mackinaw City

Mississippi
- Batesville
- Biloxi
- Gulfport
- Hattiesburg
- Horn Lake
- Meridian
- Vicksburg

Missouri
- Blue Springs
- ⊶ Branson
- Holts Summit
- Osage Beach
- Springfield
- ⊶ St. Louis/Pontoon Beach, IL
- Wentzville

Montana
- ⊶ Billings
- Bozeman

Nebraska
- Lincoln
- Ogallala
- Omaha/South 142nd St.
- Omaha/Suites
- Sioux City

Nevada
- Las Vegas

New Jersey
- Parsippany
- South Plainfield
- ⊶ W. Atlantic City

New Mexico
- ⊶ Albuquerque/Airport N.
- Albuquerque/Alameda
- ⊶ Rio Rancho
- Santa Rosa

New York
- Albany
- Buffalo
- Syracuse
- Woodbury

North Carolina
- Asheville
- Charlotte
- Clemons
- Greensboro
- Hendersonville
- Kings Mountain
- Lumberton
- Maggie Valley
- Mooresville
- Salisbury
- ⊶ Thomasville
- Winston-Salem

North Dakota
- Bismarck

Ohio
- ⊶ Bellville
- ⊶ Columbus
- Dayton/Springboro
- Milan
- ⊶ Springfield
- Wadsworth

Oklahoma
- El Reno
- Oklahoma City

South Carolina
- ⊶ Aiken
- Beaufort
- Conway
- Hardeeville
- ⊶ Rock Hill

South Dakota
- ⊶ Sioux Falls

Tennessee
- ⊶ Chattanooga/Airport North
- Chattanooga/Lookout Mtn. West
- Clarksville
- ⊶ Cookeville
- ⊶ Knoxville/East
- ⊶ Knoxville/Lenoir City
- ⊶ Knoxville/Suites
- ⊶ Milan
- Murfreesboro
- Nashville
- Nashville/Hermitage
- ⊶ Pigeon Forge

Texas
- ⊶ Alpine
- Austin/Airport
- Austin/Burnet Road
- Austin/I-35 South
- Beaumont
- Brenham
- Brownsville
- Conroe
- Corsicana
- Dallas/Addison
- Dallas/Lewisville
- Dallas/Mesquite
- Dallas/Midtown
- Dallas/Park Cities at SMU
- Dallas/Waxahachie
- Fort Worth/South Freeway
- ⊶ Fort Worth/Willow Park
- Giddings
- Harlingen
- Houston/Channelview
- Houston/FM 1960
- ⊶ Houston/Intercontinental Airport South
- ⊶ Houston/Katy
- Houston/Sharpstown
- Houston/Suites
- Houston/West
- Longview
- McAllen
- Mineral Wells
- New Braunfels
- Pharr
- Round Rock
- San Antonio/Downtown
- San Antonio/Schertz
- ⊶ San Antonio/Six Flags
- San Antonio/Windsor Park
- San Marcos
- South Padre Island
- Temple/Belton
- Wichita Falls

Virginia
- ⊶ Fredericksburg
- Lynchburg
- Norfolk/North Military Highway
- Norfolk/Oceanview
- Richmond
- Virginia Beach

Washington
- Des Moines
- Edmonds
- Spokane

West Virginia
- Barboursville
- Clarksburg
- ⊶ Hurricane
- Princeton

Wisconsin
- Madison
- ⊶ Oconto
- Racine
- ⊶ Wisconsin Dells

Wyoming
- Gillette

Canada
- Surrey, BC

⊶ Gold Key property

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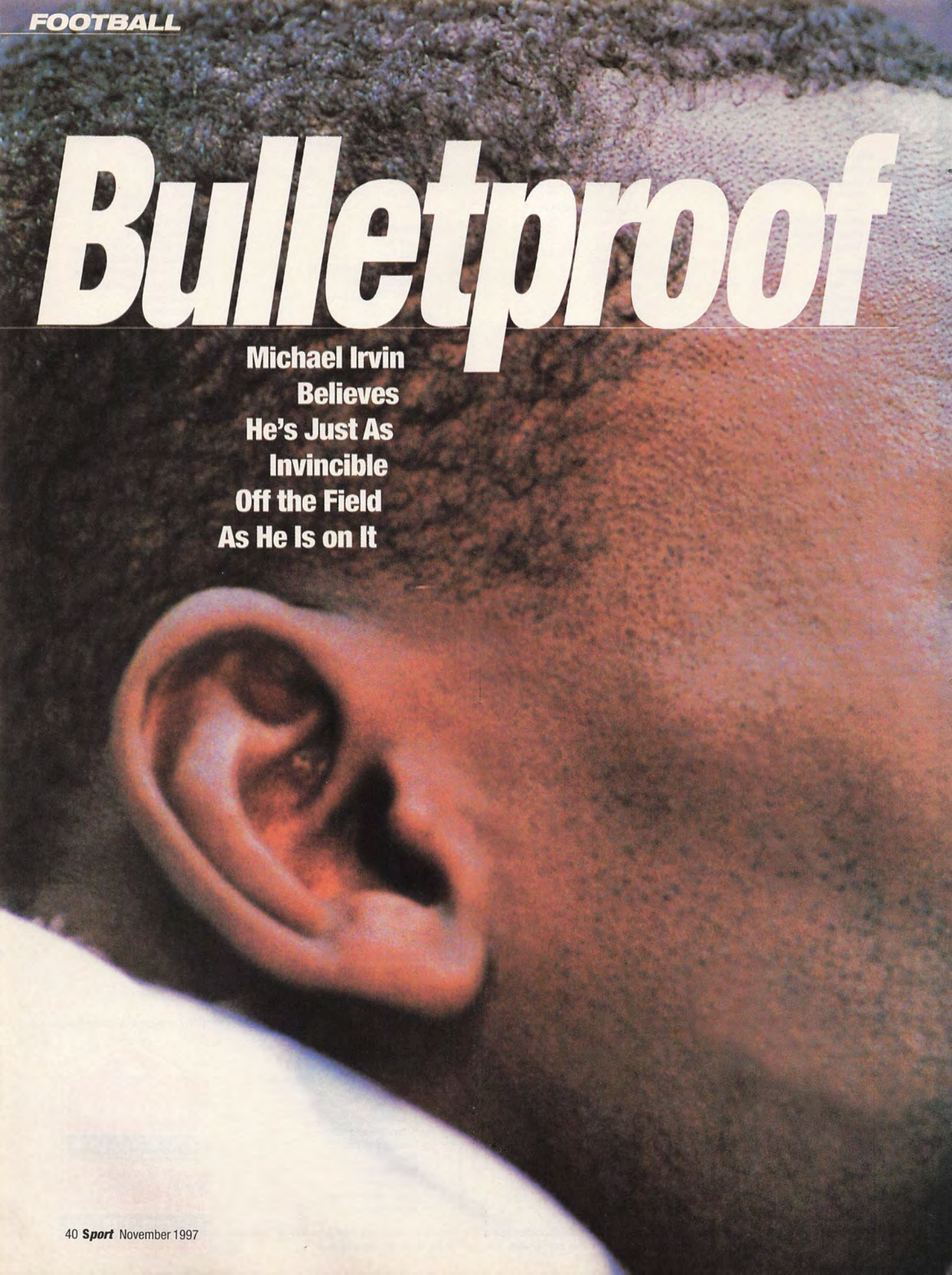
Bulletproof

Michael Irvin Believes He's Just As Invincible Off the Field As He Is on It



"We still could win a couple of more Super Bowls with this team, if we can keep Michael out of jail."

By Skip Bayless

DALLAS COWBOYS FANS, HUMILIATED BY STORY AFTER COWBOYS story about drugs or guns or topless dancers, at least can find comfort in the Troy-Emmitt debate: Which cinch Hall of Famer has been most responsible for the three Super Bowls the Cowboys have won this decade? Good-guy quarterback Troy Aikman or good-guy running back Emmitt Smith? Many Dallas fans will not be thrilled by the insiders' answer: neither.

Those who best know the Cowboys believe the team can least afford to lose the player most fans consider Most Likely to Self-Destruct. If you weigh intangibles as well as statistics, the Cowboys' MVP for the 1990s might be their one star who fails to make the Hall of Fame. Michael Irvin is the team's heart and soul—but not always its conscience. "The Playmaker" has been this team's leader before, during and (unfortunately) after games. No Cowboy has practiced, played and partied harder.

Irvin has been a mink-draped, shades-wearing symbol of what has been so right and so wrong with the '90s Cowboys.

No one man—other than perhaps former coach Jimmy Johnson—has been more responsible for teaching the '90s Cowboys how to win. And no Cowboy has lost more face than Irvin, who pleaded no contest to felony cocaine possession and was suspended for the first five games of the 1996 season. Irvin's warrior spirit and can't-touch-this catches have rocket-fueled the Cowboys. Emmitt Smith idolizes and feeds off Irvin. Aikman can look lost without him.

"Michael has always been the guy who makes it go," says Philadelphia Eagles personnel director John Wooten, who served in the same capacity for the Cowboys during Irvin's first couple seasons. "That's to take nothing away from Troy and Emmitt, who are great, great players, but the Cowboys just aren't the same without Michael. The Carolina game [in last year's playoffs] proved that. If Michael hadn't hurt his shoulder, the Cowboys win that game. Then it would have been interesting to see what happened at Green Bay."

Cowboys coaches believed they had one distinct advantage at Carolina: The 6-foot-2, 207-pound Irvin would be able to bully smallish Carolina cornerbacks Tyrone Poole and Eric Davis. On the Cowboys' second play, Irvin broke loose for a 22-yard catch-and-run—a potentially recurring nightmare for Carolina. But as Irvin went down, Panthers linebacker Lamar Lathon bounced on Irvin's shoulder, and Irvin watched the rest of the

!N FACT

Last season, Emmitt Smith rushed for 83 yards per game with Irvin in the lineup, 74 without him. Troy Aikman threw for 221 yards per game with Irvin, 183 without him.

ROB TRINGALI JR./SPORTSCHROME

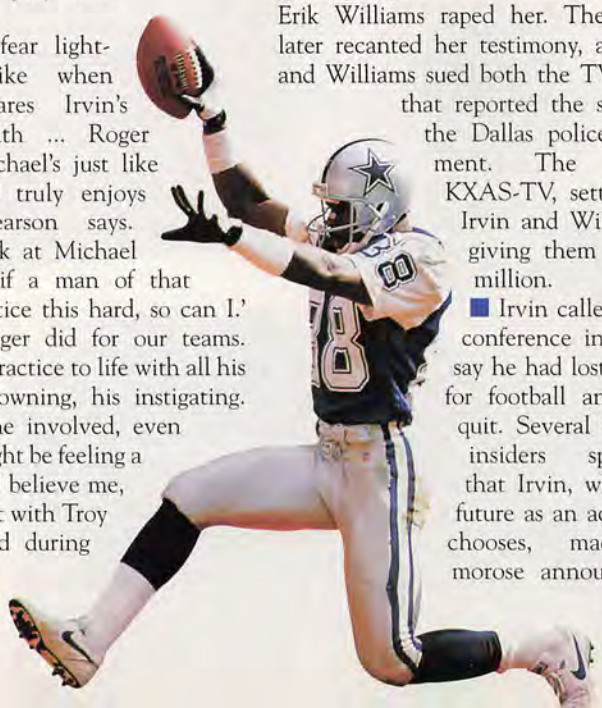
game from the sideline, wearing a sling, a frown and gilt-edged sunglasses. Aikman and Emmitt alone weren't enough. The Cowboys lost their Irvin-inspired swagger as Aikman lost confidence in his receiving corps. Dallas lost, 26-17.

Not coincidentally, the Cowboys dropped three of their first four '96 games while Irvin was suspended. "They lose their entire passing game without Michael," says former Cowboys receiving great Drew Pearson, who closely follows the current team. "The way the game is now, you cannot win a championship without an explosive passing game—being able to pick up chunks of yardage—and there's no question Michael is as valuable to the Cowboys as Jerry Rice is to the 49ers." Yet the quietly driven Rice is as disciplined off the field as on.

MICHAEL JEROME IRVIN IS a chest-beating contradiction: a superbly conditioned athlete who can run all day—and all night. For fans, it has been jarring to hear coaches like Jimmy Johnson and Dave Wannstedt call the flaunting, taunting Irvin a throwback and an overachiever.

Says the Chicago Bears' Wannstedt, who coached Irvin at the University of Miami and in Dallas: "Michael isn't the fastest or the quickest, and he doesn't have the greatest hands, but what separates him from the pack is that he practices and plays with an energy and an enthusiasm of a player from the '60s or '70s. If NFL players weren't paid a nickel, Michael would play football."

You almost fear lightning will strike when Pearson compares Irvin's work ethic with ... Roger Staubach's? "Michael's just like Roger: Michael truly enjoys practicing," Pearson says. "Other guys look at Michael and say, 'Hey, if a man of that stature can practice this hard, so can I.' That's what Roger did for our teams. Michael brings practice to life with all his laughing, his clowning, his instigating. He gets everyone involved, even the guys who might be feeling a little down. And believe me, Michael's rapport with Troy wasn't developed during games. It comes from practicing so long and hard together. Michael's a real student of the game and a great reader of defenses, and Troy completely trusts that."



Aikman has said that practice just doesn't have the same electricity without Irvin. On the other hand, Irvin's clowning has occasionally disrupted practice and irritated the regimented Aikman. For sure, Irvin's too-bad-to-be-true after-hours escapades have disillusioned Aikman. If "the shine is off the star," as Aikman said of Irvin before the 1996 season, here's why:

- Irvin was videotaped by a member of his entourage in the spring of '96 buying what appeared to be cocaine. On the tape, secretly shot from a backseat camera, a man who appeared to be Irvin says to the friend who's driving: "You want some? A couple of lines will help you." Says the friend, "It stunts your growth." Chuckling, Irvin says, "If that's the case, I shoulda been stunted a long time ago." The friend sold the tape to a TV station because, he said, he thought Irvin had a drug problem and needed help.
- Irvin became so entangled in a web of topless dancers and dirty cops that a Dallas police officer actually tried to buy a "hit" on Irvin for threatening the cop's topless-dancer girlfriend, with whom Irvin had "partied." If the "hit man" approached by the policeman hadn't been an undercover Drug Enforcement Agency agent, who knows? Irvin might be dead. Instead, the policeman went to prison.
- Irvin was accused the week before the Carolina loss by a former topless dancer of holding a gun to her head as teammate Erik Williams raped her. The woman later recanted her testimony, and Irvin and Williams sued both the TV station that reported the story and the Dallas police department. The station, KXAS-TV, settled with Irvin and Williams by giving them each $1 million.
- Irvin called a news conference in June to say he had lost his love for football and might quit. Several Cowboys insiders speculated that Irvin, who has a future as an actor if he chooses, made the morose announcement to win public sympathy and strengthen his case against the TV station and police department. Irvin has publicly complained that the Dallas media and police have unfairly scrutinized his off-field behavior and killed his love for playing in Dallas. Irvin's agent, Steve Endicott, has discussed with owner Jerry Jones the possibility of trading Irvin. Says Jones: "Michael will not be traded, period."

Of course, Irvin has brought much of the intense scrutiny on himself. Irvin called a similar news conference in the summer of '96. Flanked by his mother, his wife and two of their daughters, Irvin delivered a powerful apology for being caught in a hotel room with drugs and topless dancers and vowed to go home to Fort Lauderdale and "make things right" with his family. He was soon spotted by a television reporter in a Fort Lauderdale topless club.

Only Michael Irvin could have been involved in a late-night altercation at a San Francisco nightclub shortly before this season's training camp. Details were sketchy, but Irvin, in the Bay Area to make an appearance, accosted a man over what might have been a stolen cell phone. The San Francisco district attorney's office chose not to pursue a case against Irvin. But as a high-placed Cowboys source says, "How could Michael Irvin, who's still on a very strict probation [for his cocaine conviction], even risk setting foot inside a place like that? We still could win a couple of more Super Bowls with this team, if we can keep Michael out of jail."

SO WHAT TEMPTS IRVIN TO self-destruct? Sports psychologist Don Beck of the National Values Center in Denton, Texas, has counseled Texas coaches from Tom Landry to Bum Phillips to John Mackovic to Rangers manager Johnny Oates. Says Beck, a keen observer of the Cowboys: "Michael is the team's nerve center—its source of raw energy. He revels in the excitement of the game because, from a neurological perspective, he has a high sensory brain that thrives on intense thrill-seeking, pushing things to the extreme. When the cheering stops, he has to find substitute ways to create those excitement levels."

Yet Beck notes that Irvin does not have the kind of personality prone to cocaine addiction. "He has so many natural producers within him that [in the

TOM DIPACE

past] cocaine might have been a turbo-charger but not a necessity. Michael isn't the type who needs cocaine to increase his self-esteem and bring out his ego. He's an extraordinary human being. Energy just flows out of him."

Beck was one who cautioned against sending Irvin to any kind of therapy—as talk-show callers suggested—while he was suspended early last season. "Michael has a raw anger in him that is critical to winning football games," Beck says. "Therapy can work to shrink that core of anger, and for a football player it can destroy the competitiveness."

So Aikman has done everything in his power to help harness Irvin's energy. Recently, Aikman convinced the management of Logo Athletic, a sports apparel company for which Aikman is a leading spokesman, to sign Irvin, who had lost several other endorsement deals because of his off-field problems. Several Cowboys sources believe one reason Aikman took the risk was to increase Irvin's incentive to stay out of trouble.

Says Beck: "Troy knows he's not going to win without Michael, so this could be something of a controlling factor, to increase Michael's sense of loyalty to Troy and to help Michael moderate his outlandishness. For Troy, Michael is completion—they're opposites who feed off each other. Troy is responsible and ordered, while Michael is chaotic—instant gratification vs. delayed gratification. But Troy also needs Michael to help control and motivate the rest of the team. Michael is almost a godfather-like figure, intervening, mediating, encouraging, reprimanding. When a teammate goes down, Michael is always the first one on the scene."

Irvin is the undisputed leader of a team without a take-charge personality on its coaching staff. Aikman prefers to lead more by example. Emmitt has always been more of a follower, and during a game Emmitt would follow Irvin through a mine field.

Says the University of Miami's Butch Davis, who coached Irvin in college and in Dallas: "Emmitt Smith, who could go down as the premier running back ever to play, gets his energy from Michael. There's just something special about having Michael's aura in the huddle—you just know he can make a big play at any point.

"Michael's a guy who just wills victory—he's always as fast as he has to be. Michael shows everyone else what it takes to win. Michael knows his speed isn't his predominant strength, so he has worked to maximize all his attributes."

Irvin, who lifts weights as intensely as he practices, is unusually strong on the leg press. "People don't realize how strong he is in the upper body and especially in his leg drive," says Pearson.

Irvin has worked to become one of the game's most consistent route-runners. "He runs that 18-yard comeback so precisely, without telegraphing the route, that it doesn't matter if he's running a 4.4 or a 4.6 40," says Butch Davis. Irvin hasn't been afraid to make his living on what Pearson used to call "the hell route," slanting inside the cornerback and exposing himself to punishment from the safety.

Irvin has been a mink-draped, shades-wearing symbol of what has been so right and so wrong with the '90s Cowboys.

Irvin has learned every trick, pushing on-field rules the way he occasionally has off-field laws. Defensive backs constantly complain that Irvin pushes off. As Irvin has said, "They want to get physical with me, I'll get physical with them." Says Pearson: "He's one receiver who relishes a cornerback trying to dog him at the line of scrimmage."

Irvin has a rage to win—and to celebrate. When Irving police caught Irvin with drugs in the hotel room, he said, "Can I tell you who I am?" Says Beck, "That's Michael's way of saying, 'I worked hard to bring you joy and bragging rights and the spoils of victory, now I deserve the rewards of the warrior class.' "

The grand jury didn't see it that way. Yet several Cowboys sources interviewed for this article said they haven't detected any new contrition or maturity in Irvin's behavior.

Says one front-office source: "I hope I'm wrong, but he still seems to have that attitude that he's invincible and bulletproof. It's like he's had his slap on the wrist, now he wants his old life back. He has to understand that he lost his old life back at that hotel."

What's unfortunate for Irvin is that his bad-boy persona has clouded his value in the eyes of many media observers and fans. Though many players and coaches in and out of Dallas already believe Irvin belongs in the Hall of Fame, media voters might use his tarnished image as an

Irvin has high-stepped his way to nearly 10,000 yards in his nine-year career, but missteps off the field have turned Happy Valley a bit dour.

Headin' to the Hall?

Is Irvin a future Hall of Famer? Media voters might keep him out because of his tarnished image, but most experts believe he's already got the credentials. Here's how he stacks up with other former and current receiver greats.

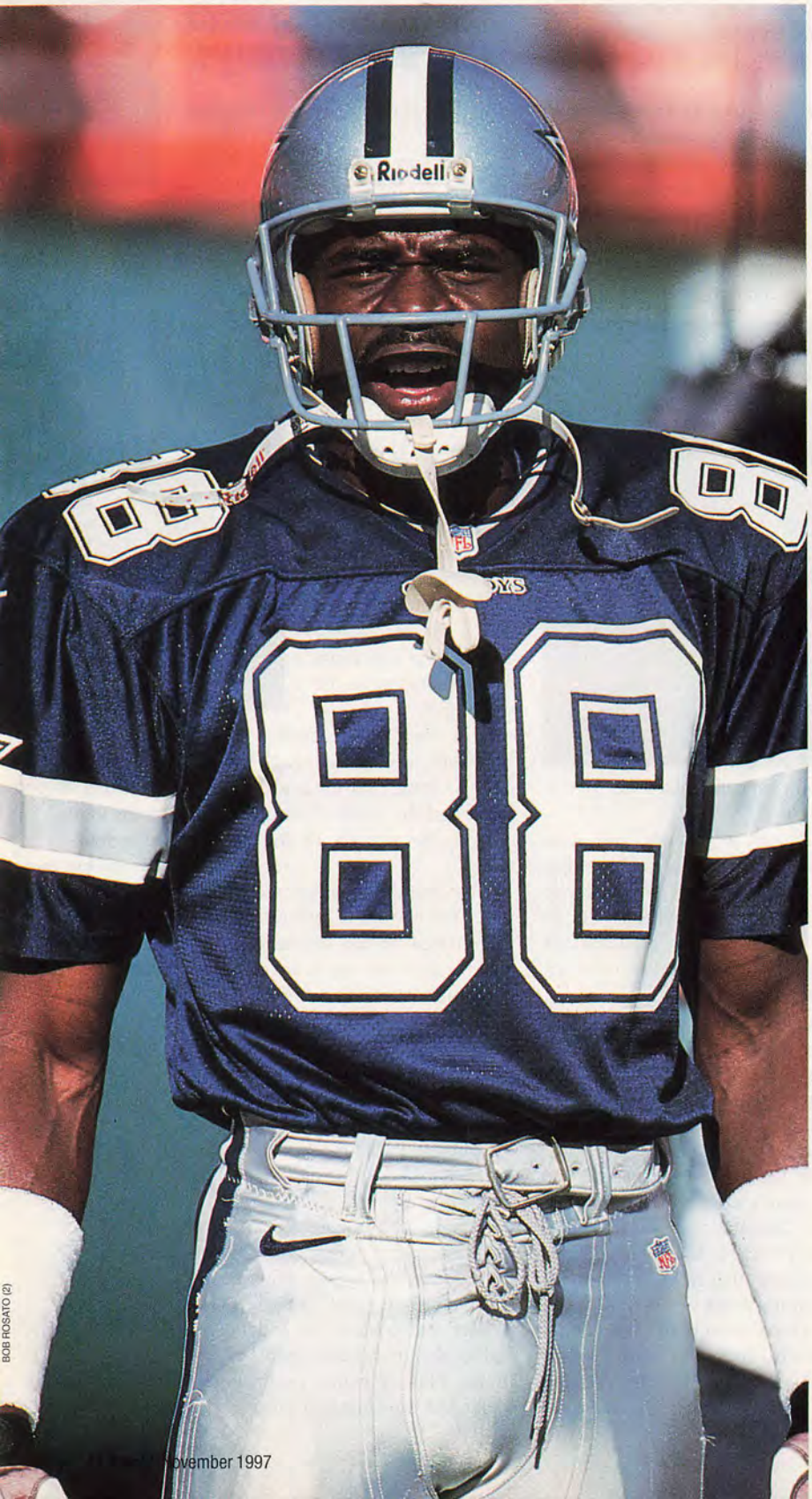
Receiver	Team	Yrs	Yds	TDs	Titles	Hall?
Jerry Rice	49ers	'85-	16,377	154	3	A lock
Henry Ellard	Rams/Redskins	'83-	13,177	61	0	Probably in
Steve Largent	Seahawks	'76-89	13,089	100	0	Inducted
Don Maynard	Giants/Jets	'58-73	11,834	88	1	Inducted
Michael Irvin	**Cowboys**	**'88-**	**9,470**	**52**	**3**	**???**
Raymond Berry	Colts	'55-67	9,275	68	2	Inducted
Charlie Taylor	Redskins	'64-77	9,110	79	0	Inducted
Paul Warfield	Browns/Dolphins	'64-77	8,565	85	3	Inducted
Drew Pearson	Cowboys	'73-83	7,822	48	1	No
Lynn Swann	Steelers	'74-82	5,462	51	4	No

Note: Stats are through 1996 season.

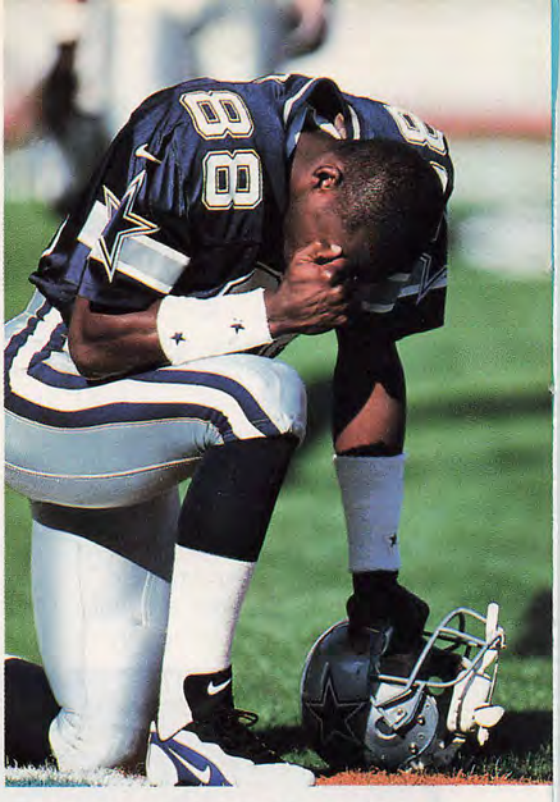
BRIAN SPURLOCK; DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT

excuse to pass him over—especially with so many other Dallas candidates. Besides Aikman and Emmitt, Canton cases can be made for Charles Haley and Deion Sanders and eventually for Darren Woodson and Larry Allen. Remember, Drew Pearson and Lynn Swann still aren't in the Hall of Fame. One excuse is that too many '70s Cowboys and Steelers already have been enshrined. Another is that Pearson's performance was enhanced by bookend receiver Tony Hill, while Swann's stats were split with John Stallworth.

But Irvin has done it almost completely



BOB ROSATO (2)



"It's like he's had his slap on the wrist, now he wants his old life back. He has to understand that he lost his old life back at that hotel."

by himself and has received no help from the Cowboys' remarkably simple offense. Not to take anything away from obvious Hall of Famer Jerry Rice, but he has piled up stats in a West Coast scheme that floods zones with three or four receivers. While Rice is more difficult to pin down because he sometimes lines up in the slot or goes in motion, Irvin always lines up outside and almost never moves before the snap. The Dallas offense depends on Irvin beating his man—or at least occupying two defenders.

In so many ways, the Cowboys rely heavily on Michael Irvin.

Will the clock again strike 12 for the Midnight Cowboy? Says his agent, Steve Endicott, "Michael is a very, very smart guy, and in the end that will win out."

Aikman and Emmitt certainly hope so. If Irvin gets in trouble, the Cowboys are in trouble. ■

Dallas-based author Skip Bayless has written three books on the Cowboys, including last year's Hell-Bent.

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Ocean Yachts 48

The Reel World

Hooked on Miami, Head Fish Jimmy Johnson Has Everything He Needs–Except for Another Ring

By Greg Guss • Photography by Tom DiPace

LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER, JIMMY JOHNSON IS CLEARLY out of his element as he jerks and heaves forward along the Florida Turnpike in his jet-black Corvette. He may be a great football coach, but Johnson is proving to be a poor commuter, ripping off onto the shoulder to pass a pocket of traffic just before an interchange. ¶"I get all stressed out in traffic," the Miami Dolphins head coach says. "Oh yeah, I'm not real patient. I'm cussing people out. In Dallas, I lived three blocks from the office. Here, I've got a 25-mile commute to get to my boat."

But by the time he enters the gated bayside community where he and girlfriend Rhonda Rookmaaker reside, Johnson's blood pressure has dropped. He has candidly discussed football, family and even spirituality, and his personality seems clearly outlined after the better part of a humid south Florida day. But after purring past Rhonda's twin 'Vette in the parking lot, Johnson reveals a shocker.

"I bought this little dog for Rhonda and I enjoy it as much as she does," Johnson admits with a sheepish grin. "It's a Teacup Yorky named Buttercup."

Buttercup! Jimmy Johnson, about whom Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas says, "You

!N FACT

Johnson became the first head coach to win both a college football national title (U. of Miami, 1987) and a Super Bowl (Dallas, '93). Barry Switzer equaled the feat when his Cowboys won the Super Bowl in '96, 10 years after his third national title with Oklahoma.

could be his best friend and he'll cut you in a heartbeat," owns a 24-ounce furball named Buttercup! Dogkind's newest best friend persists in gushing about his pride and joy, pointing out that Buttercup has helped bring him closer to his parents, C.W. and Allene Johnson. "Mother and Daddy have a Teacup Yorky too. And that was kind of where we got the idea. Since we got that little dog, that's all we talk about."

Has Jimmy Johnson gone soft? Holding his canine princess in his right hand and a cold beer in his left, Johnson appears anything but the coldhearted autocrat the media has made him out to be. But even that which seems completely incongruous on the surface makes perfect sense in the overall scope of Johnson's 54 years of existence.

"I don't have a lot of things I need," he says. "I'm not trying to make a whole bunch of money anymore. I don't do anything socially. I'm not involved with a bunch of charities. I've got a pretty simple life. When I have a little bit of free time, I get out on the water. I don't go to movies, I don't go out to dinner, but that doesn't bother me because those things aren't important to me anyway."

Buttercup rubs her lilliputian ear against Daddy's thumb in a silent gesture of approval. Johnson has said he may end up coaching elsewhere someday but that his home will always be south Florida. And from the bow of "Three Rings," the 48-foot yacht on which he navigates the Florida coastal waters, Johnson seems to personify self-satisfaction. With a bed of flaming diamonds on his finger and the Atlantic Ocean beneath his feet, Jimmy Johnson appears to have conquered the world. His three championship rings—two from the Cowboys and one from the University of Miami—speak of a success few head coaches have attained. Meanwhile, his boat gives him freedom to explore the Neptunian kingdom he grew up loving in middle-class Port Arthur, Texas. With the woman he loves, with the pursuit of a

Johnson is still driven, but now he makes time for his two princesses, Rhonda and Buttercup.

Has Jimmy Johnson gone soft? Holding his canine princess in his right hand and a cold beer in his left, Johnson appears to be anything but the coldhearted autocrat the media has made him out to be.

fourth ring before him and with the Biscayne Bay in his backyard, Johnson has everything he needs. The Dolphins head coach has dedicated his earthly existence to the diamonds and to the sea—his two shimmering beauties—and this has set him free.

"For me, it's a sense of great pride in what we've accomplished," Johnson says of the significance of his jewelry. "But the rings are also a reminder of why I'm here. It is a reminder of why I came back to coaching, and that is to win another ring."

The symmetry of the diamond, the way each molecule locks together to create an overall structural integrity, mirrors the tenacious honesty with which Johnson coaches football and lives his life.

"If some people are offended by the way I live my life, I don't mean for them to be," Johnson says without compunction. "I don't break any laws. I think I'm a very moral person. So I'm not going to be hypocritical and do things because certain people think I should do them if I don't believe in them. I don't do a bunch of phony handshakes and sit-down dinners and stroke a bunch of people if I don't want to do it."

Is this arrogant self-righteousness, or is this one man's steadfast integrity carried to the level of asceticism? Johnson doesn't celebrate Christmas. He doesn't give Rhonda presents on their anniversary. Heck, he doesn't even remember his parents' birthdays.

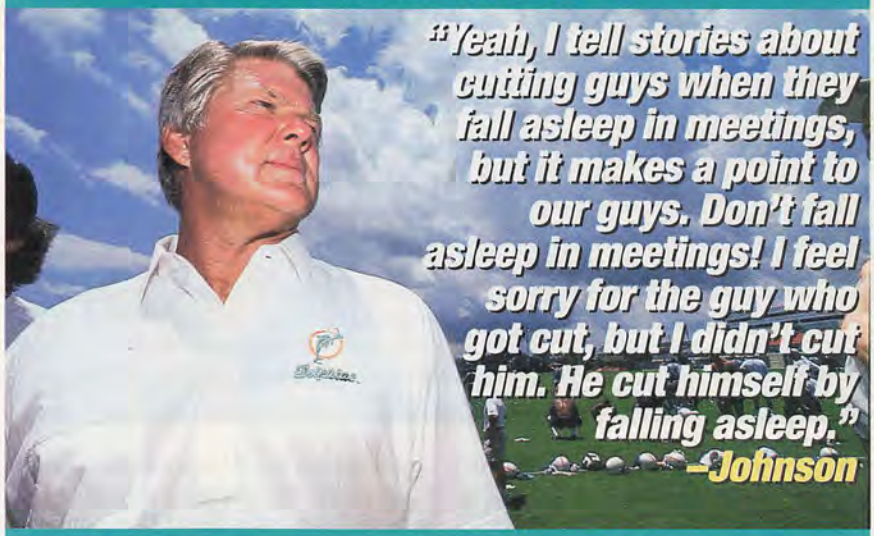
"Those things are all accurate," Johnson admits, "but it's unfair to judge that on the surface. I respect the religious holiday of Christmas. It just so happens that my whole career we've always been preparing for or playing a game on Christmas. But I just don't believe in giving gifts because a certain day rolls around. It's not like I don't give gifts though. I'm a very generous person."

His players might argue the point.

"You know, during the football season I'm hard," he says. "But in my mind, that's the best way to accomplish what we all want to accomplish. Yeah, I tell stories about cutting guys when they fall asleep in meetings, but it makes a point to our guys. Don't fall asleep in meetings! I feel sorry for the guy who got cut, but I didn't cut him. He cut himself by falling asleep."

"ONE OF THE STRENGTHS I HAVE—AND this is not just me sitting here talking about it, this has been proven out over the years, at Dallas and the University of Miami and at Oklahoma State—is evalu-

Sudden Impact


"Yeah, I tell stories about cutting guys when they fall asleep in meetings, but it makes a point to our guys. Don't fall asleep in meetings! I feel sorry for the guy who got cut, but I didn't cut him. He cut himself by falling asleep."
–Johnson

POLITICAL SCIENTISTS LOOK TO A PRESIDENT'S FIRST 100 DAYS IN OFFICE AS A harbinger of things to come. So, too, can footballogists attempt to discern how a new NFL head coach will affect a club by his first draft and training camp.

In terms of personnel turnover, Jimmy Johnson's impact upon his return to south Florida in January 1996 equated to the detonation of a nuclear bomb. Before Miami played its first regular-season game under the Johnson regime, the team had been transformed from one of the oldest in the league to the NFL's youngest at 25.7 years of age.

"I don't believe in going out there and getting some old free agents and making a one-year run at it," Johnson says. "We do it solid and we do it with young people as the foundation. I like to do it from the ground up."

Of the 84 players invited to Miami's 1997 training camp, 69 had less than five years of NFL experience. Johnson won't openly criticize his predecessor in Miami, former Dolphins head coach and Hall of Famer Don Shula, but Shula, whose Dolphins won back-to-back Super Bowls in 1972 and 1973, failed to win a title in his final 22 years at the helm.

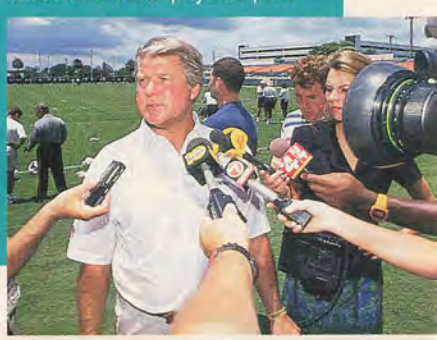
When the Dolphins' 1995 season ended with a humiliating 37-22 loss to the Buffalo Bills, the franchise was a shambles. "Because of the way the salary cap works and knowing we were going to jettison some big contracts and some unproductive players, I knew it would take us two years to wipe away some bad contracts—Eric Green, Gene Atkins and on and on and on," Johnson says. "And for that reason, we've been competing with about six or seven million dollars less than what other teams have at their disposal. So that's why we put the three-year spin on this team."

In 1996, the Dolphins led the NFL in "waste money," contracts of players no longer on the team that count against the cap. This season, Miami's waste money is approximately $6.5 million of the $41.5 million cap. But by 1998, Miami figures to have one of the lowest waste-money totals in the league, finally giving Johnson the wherewithal to add some key free agents to his talented mix of young athletes.

The goal: to do in three years what Shula could not in his final 22. The Dolphins already are beginning to resemble the championship Cowboys clubs Johnson crafted shortly after a 1-15 campaign. "I think we're going to be a good football team this year," Johnson says. "I don't back away from saying that I think we should win the East. How far we go beyond that, well, there are a lot of factors that will affect that."

By the end of this season, the Dolphins truly will be Jimmy's team. Of the current 22 starters, only defensive tackle Tim Bowens is not signed through the 1998 season.

"You can clean up any franchise within two years. But because of our physical practices and the things I demand of our players, I need young athletes," Johnson says. "And also I like to be able to mold their attitudes and get them in the right work ethic. It's almost the same way I was able to bear a 1-15 in Dallas. As horrible as the losses are, when you know you're going to win, you can live with it. So even though I still take the losses pretty hard, it's not miserable because I know we're going to win."



Inside Jimmy's Bunker

YOU CAN'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS COVER, BUT THE WAY A MAN DECORATES HIS OFFICE CAN GO A long way toward illuminating his personality and values. Below are some of the items Jimmy Johnson keeps in his immaculate second-floor office at the Dolphins' training facility:

- A photograph of Jimmy scuba diving and saying hello to a large moray eel. Other photographs include shots of Jimmy with companion Rhonda, his two sons, Wayne and Brent, President Clinton and Dolphins owner H. Wayne Huizenga.
- A jar of "Ass Kickin' Jelly Beans." These candies claim to be "kick yo' ass hot."
- Books include *100 Ways to Motivate Yourself* by Steve Chandler and *Flow* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. (Most likely you could finish reading *Flow* before being able to correctly spell or pronounce the author's last name.)
- A porcelain lladro miniature of a man and a woman on a speed boat.
- A saltwater fish tank. Among the denizen of the deep that share Johnson's office are two Benji, three firefish, one yellow tang, one coral beauty, one goldenhead sleeper and a sea apple. But the real prize of the tank is the rare, multicolored coral.

ating talent and obtaining talent," Johnson says from behind his desk at the Dolphins' training facility in Davie, Fla.

This is the third time in the last 20 minutes he has prefaced a statement with some type of "I'm not bragging, but ... " caveat. What's fascinating about Johnson is that he believes in his ability so strongly that winning has become an afterthought. "I said it a year ago and some people may think this is being cocky"—there he goes again!—"but I really believe everybody knows we're going to win. Everybody I talk to, whether it's a rookie or a free agent, they want to come play for the Dolphins."

Miami tight end coach Pat Jones, who has worked with Johnson for the better part of the last 20 years, says Johnson's football philosophy is basic, and laid bare for all to see. "The philosophy is simple: young players, strong running game and a quick defensive line that can put pressure on the quarterback and disrupt the opponent's offense," Jones says. "That's how he's always won and that's no secret."

So why couldn't, say, the Jets or Tampa Bay have taken this blueprint and built a contender a decade ago? "You can't just put a bunch of rookies in your lineup and think you're going to win," Jones explains. "What makes Jimmy unique is his ability to evaluate talent. Sure, he's a tireless worker, but he just sees things other coaches don't see."

Take the examples of Herschel Walker and Zach Thomas. In 1989, during his first year as head coach of the Cowboys, Johnson traded away Walker, the former Heisman Trophy winner and Dallas' most popular player, to Minnesota for a slew of draft picks. After suffering through a 1-15 season, Johnson parlayed those multiple picks into two Super Bowl titles within just four years.

Johnson is aglow at the prospect of another ring.

Even ESPN's NFL Draft Day coverage received a serious ratings boost when Johnson returned to the "war room." Such is his reputation as a talent evaluator. And Thomas is merely the latest in a long line of genius draft picks. Slow and undersized, Thomas fell to the fifth round, where Johnson selected him with the 154th overall pick.

It's not difficult to understand why 29 other coaches passed on a 5-foot-11 linebacker from Texas Tech, but what did Johnson see in Thomas that he has seen in so many other "projects" in the past?

"I don't know that I see myself in Zach, but I admire his attitude and approach to the game," says Johnson, speaking like a proud father. (Johnson himself was once an undersized defensive lineman at the University of Arkansas). "Most coaches want the big, strong, fast guy with unlimited potential. And most coaches won't like Zach Thomas. That's why I think I'm in the minority for liking Zach."

Thomas, playing the role of the dutiful son in this unique coach-player relationship, credits Johnson with the meteoric rise of his career. "He's meant everything to me," says Thomas, last season's AFC rookie of the year. "He gives everybody a chance. He doesn't care how big you are or how much money you make. He just cares about who can make plays. Most rookies don't get much of a chance to show out in camp, but ours was so tough, we could impress coaches in practice.

"If you don't have the mind or the heart," Thomas says, as if reciting the Gospel According to Jimmy, "it doesn't matter how much talent you have. And I think he knows that from his playing days."

But how does Johnson evaluate himself? He was asked to quantify his value by assigning percentages to each of the three main components of a football team: the players, the coach and the general manager/owner.

"The players are the most significant," Johnson says, scrawling an 85 percent next to that part of the pie chart. And with five percent going to the GM/owner, Johnson only allotted 10 percent to the head coach's value to his team. "If you don't have the right players, you're not going to win," Johnson says. "But I will say this: A mediocre coach can only win with great players, but a great coach can win with just good players."

Jimmy Johnson—who isn't bragging, mind you—knows he can coach with the best of them. ■

OVERTIME

Johnson has teamed with VR Sports to produce Jimmy Johnson's VR Football '98, released in August for the Sony PlayStation.

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Dear Friend,

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My name is John Wright. Not too long ago I was flat broke. I was $31,000 in debt. The bank repossessed my car because I couldn't keep up with the payments. And one day the landlord gave me an eviction notice because I hadn't paid the rent for three months. So we had to move out. My family and I stayed at my cousin's place for the rest of that month before I could manage to get another apartment. That was very embarrassing.

Things have changed now. I own four homes in Southern California. The one I'm living in now in Bel Air is worth more than one million dollars. I own several cars, among them a Rolls Royce and a Mercedes Benz. Right now, I have a million dollar line of credit with the banks and have certificates of deposit at $100,000 each in my bank in Beverly Hills.

Best of all, I have time to have fun. To be me. To do what I want. I work about 4 hours a day, the rest of the day, I do things that please me. Some days I go swimming and sailing—shopping. Other days, I play racquetball or tennis. Sometimes, frankly, I just lie out under the sun with a good book. I love to take long vacations. I just got back from a two week vacation from—Maui, Hawaii.

I'm not really trying to impress you with my wealth. All I'm trying to do here is to prove to you that if it wasn't because of that money secret I was lucky enough to find that day, I still would have been poor or maybe even bankrupt. It was only through this amazing money secret that I could pull myself out of debt and become wealthy. Who knows what would have happened to my family and me.

Knowing about this secret changed my life completely. It brought me wealth, happiness, and most important of all—peace of mind. This secret will change your life, too! It will give you everything you need and will solve all your money problems. Of course you don't have to take my word for it. You can try it for yourself. To see that you try this secret, I'm willing to give you $20.00 in cash. (I'm giving my address at the bottom of this page.) I figure, if I spend $20.00, I get your attention. And you will prove it to yourself this amazing money secret will work for you, too!

Why, you may ask, am I willing to share this secret with you? To make money? Hardly. First, I already have all the money and possessions I'll ever need. Second, my secret does not involve any sort of competition whatsoever. Third, nothing is more satisfying to me than sharing my secret only with those who realize a golden opportunity and get on it quickly.

This secret is incredibly simple. Anyone can use it. You can get started with practically no money at all and the risk is almost zero. You don't need special training or even a high school education. It doesn't matter how young or old you are and it will work for you at home or even while you are on vacation.

Let me tell you more about this fascinating money making secret:

With this secret the money can roll in fast. In some cases you may be able to cash in literally overnight. If you can follow simple instructions you can get started in a single afternoon and it is possible to have spendable money in your hands the very next morning. In fact, this just might be the fastest *legal* way to make money that has ever been invented!

This is a very safe way to get extra cash. It is practically risk free. It is not a dangerous gamble. Everything you do has already been tested and you can get started for less money than most people spend for a night on the town.

One of the nicest things about this whole idea is that you can do it at home in your spare time. You don't need equipment or an office. It doesn't matter where you live either. You can use this secret to make money if you live in a big city or on a farm or anywhere in between. A husband and wife team from New York used my secret, worked at home in their spare time, and made $45,000 *in one year.*

This secret is simple. It would be hard to make a mistake if you tried. You don't need a college degree or even a high school education. All you need is a little common sense and the ability to follow simple, easy, step-by-step instructions. I personally know a man from New England who used this secret and made $2 million *in just 3 years.*

You can use this secret to make money no matter how old or how young you may be. There is no physical labor involved and everything is so easy it can be done whether you're a teenager or 90 years old. I know one woman who is over 65 and *is making all the money she needs* with this secret.

When you use this secret to make money you never have to try to convince anybody of anything. This has nothing to do with door-to-door selling, telephone solicitation, real estate or anything else that involves personal contact.

Everything about this idea is perfectly legal and honest. You will be proud of what you are doing and you will be providing a very valuable service.

It will only take you two hours to learn how to use this secret. After that everything is almost automatic. After you get started you can probably do everything that is necessary in three hours per week.

Here's what newspapers and magazines are saying about this incredible secret:

The Washington Times:
The Royal Road to Riches is paved with golden tips.

National Examiner:
John Wright has an excellent guide for achieving wealth in your spare time.

Income Opportunities:
The Royal Road to Riches is an invaluable guide for finding success in your own back yard.

News Tribune:
Wright's material is a MUST for anyone who contemplates making it as an independent entrepreneur.

Success:
John Wright believes in success, pure and simple.

Money Making Opportunities:
John Wright has a rare gift for helping people with no experience make lots of money. He's made many people wealthy.

California Political Week:
...The politics of high finance made easy.

The Tolucan:
You'll love...*The Royal Road to Riches.* It's filled with valuable information...only wish I'd known about it years ago!

Hollywood Citizen News:
He does more than give general ideas. He gives people a detailed A to Z plan to make big money.

The Desert Sun:
Wright's *Royal Road to Riches* lives up to its title in offering an uncomplicated path to financial success.

PROOF

I know you are skeptical. That simply shows your good business sense. Well, here is proof from people who have put this amazing secret into use and have gotten all the money they ever desired. Their initials have been used In order to protect their privacy, but I have full information and the actual proof of their success in my files.

'More Money Than I Ever Dreamed'

"All I can say—your plan is *great!* In just 8 weeks I took in over $100,000. More money than I ever dreamed of making. At this rate, I honestly believe, I can make over a million dollars per year.

A. F., Providence. RI

'$9,800 In 24 Hours'

"I didn't believe it when you said the secret could produce money the *next morning.* Boy, was I wrong, and you were right! I purchased your *Royal Road to Riches.* On the basis of your advice, $9,800 poured in, in less than 24 hours! John, your secret is incredible!"

J. K., Laguna Hills, CA

'Made $15,000 In 2 Months At 22'

"I was able to earn over $15,000 with your plan—in just the past two months. As a 22 year old girl, I never thought that I'd ever be able to make as much money as fast as I've been able to do. I really do wish to thank you, with all of my heart."

Ms. E. L., Los Angeles, CA

'Made $126,000 In 3 Months'

"For years, I passed up all the plans that promised to make me rich. Probably I am lucky I did—but I am even more lucky that I took the time to send for your material. It changed my whole life. Thanks to you, I made $126,000 in 3 months."

S. W., Plainfield, IN

'Made $203,000 In 8 Months'

"I never believed those success stories...never believed I would be one of them...using your techniques, in just 8 months, I made over $203,000...made over $20,000 more in the last 22 days! Not just well prepared but simple, easy, fast...John, thank you for your *Royal Road to Riches!"*

C. M., Los Angeles, CA

'$500,000 In Six Months'

"I'm amazed at my success! By using your secret I made $500,000 in six months. That's more than twenty times what I've made in any single year before! I've never made so much money in such short time with minimum effort. My whole life I was waiting for this amazing miracle! Thank you, John Wright."

R. S., Mclean, VA

As you can tell by now I have come across something pretty good. I believe I have discovered the sweetest little money-making secret you could ever imagine. Remember—I guarantee it.

Most of the time, it takes big money to make money. This is an exception. With this secret you can start in your spare time with almost nothing. But of course you don't have to start small or stay small. You can go as fast and as far as you wish. The size of your profits is totally up to you. I can't guarantee how much you will make with this secret but I can tell you this—so far this amazing money producing secret makes the profits from most other ideas look like peanuts!

Now at last, I've completely explained this remarkable secret in a special money making plan. I call it "The Royal Road to Riches". Some call it a miracle. You'll probably call it "The Secret of Riches". You will learn everything you need to know step-by-step. So you too can put this amazing money making secret to work for you and make all the money you need.

To prove this secret will solve all your money problems, don't send me any money, *instead postdate* your check for a month and a half from today. I guarantee not to deposit it for 45 days. I won't cash your check for 45 days before I know for sure that you are completely satisfied with my material.

$20.00 FREE!

There is no way you can lose. You either solve all your money problems with this secret (in just 30 days) or you get your money back *plus* $20.00 *in cash* **FREE!**

Do you realize what this means? You can put my simple secret into use. Be able to solve all your money problems. And if for any reason whatsoever you are not 100% satisfied after using the secret for 30 days, you may return my material. And then I will not only return your original UNCASHED CHECK, but I will also send you an extra *$20.00 cashiers check* just for giving the secret an honest try according to the simple instructions.

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SWORN STATEMENT:

"As Mr. John Wright's accountant, I certify that his assets exceed one million dollars." Mark Davis

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No Day at the Beach

Who: Former "Baywatch" star Alexandra Paul and former Cowboys receiver Butch Johnson
Where: Malibu Beach, Calif.
Why: Paul and Johnson soon will compete in the most grueling of all sporting events, the Ironman Triathlon

Lead Photograph by Steven Lippman

IN FACT Paul's weekly training schedule: 16,000 meters swimming, 215 miles cycling and 40 miles running. Johnson isn't there yet but says if he gets to "what the average elite male triathlete does—which is five miles swimming, 230 miles cycling and 40 miles running per week—the base that I have from football will get me through the Ironman."

INSET OPPOSITE PAGE: STEVEN LIPPMAN; INSETS THIS PAGE (2): ROB GALLAGHER. HAIR & MAKE-UP BY SHALLY ZUCKER FOR CLOUTIER

Alexandra Paul and Butch Johnson earned honorary invitations to the World Triathlon Championships because they're sponsored by Ironman Properties, but there's nothing inviting about their journey—a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride and 26.2-mile run.

BUTCH JOHNSON MAY BE 43, BUT YOU'D think he was 8 based on the exuberance he's exhibiting during our photo shoot in actress Alexandra Paul's sandy front yard, otherwise known as Malibu Beach. As the former "Baywatch" star poses with the sunset as a backdrop, Johnson is racing against the waves that are rolling onto shore. Like a child imitating his football hero, Johnson pretends that the water is a football-field sideline and that his job is to run up the coast as close to the water as possible without getting his feet wet.

Johnson, of course, was a football hero himself, a wide receiver for the Dallas Cowboys who played on the 1977 Super Bowl team. And his youthful enthusiasm? Understandable. He is, after all, but a child to his new sport, the triathlon.

"About a year ago, I got to talking to Jim Ward, this 81-year-old triathlete," says Johnson. "He was so full of life, he was making me feel guilty. That's when I realized competing in triathlons was something that would keep me young for life."

By comparison, Paul is a veteran of sorts. She's been running triathlons for two years now, training under her coach and former Ironman champ Scott Tinley for the last year.

"I've played the part of a lifeguard, an Olympic biathlete, a cyclist, a skier, a bodybuilder and a dancer," says Paul, 34. "But I don't consider myself a true athlete." Don't believe her. At a half-Ironman competition in Ventura, Calif., in August, Paul placed 29th among a field of 92.

PAUL: What do people say when they hear you're training for this Ironman?

JOHNSON: At first they think I'm nuts. Even a broadcaster in my area said, "I don't know what this guy's smoking, but something must be wrong with him." And I'm thinking, let's look at this thing. I played in the NFL for 10 years, which meant I went through six weeks of training camp each year in 100-degree weather with 35 pounds of equipment on, five hours a day. Well, something's the matter with that program.

PAUL: You obviously can't be sane.

JOHNSON: Then I let 300-pound guys hit me in the ribs.

PAUL: Just for a piece of pigskin.

JOHNSON: Just for this piece of pigskin. But no, people say I'm crazy to do something I never get touched in.

PAUL: My mother started to cry when I told her.

JOHNSON: Cry?

PAUL: She cried. Because her impression of the Ironman, which is a lot of people's, was—

JOHNSON: Julie Moss.

PAUL: Julie Moss collapsing on the course in '82 and crawling to the finish line. And that's the last thing they've heard or seen of the Ironman.

JOHNSON: A lot of people think Julie Moss is dead.

[*Laughter*]

PAUL: That's right.

JOHNSON: We know she's not dead.

PAUL: She's racing this year.

JOHNSON: They think she's dead, so they can't imagine anybody would want to go through that much pain. They just don't understand that you don't have to. You just don't have to. Triathlons don't have to be the Ironman length [2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, 26.2-mile run]. You can run a half-Ironman, a quarter-Ironman. They have distances for all levels.

PAUL: It's a whole new role for you. I admire someone going out of their element. No one expects much from me because I'm known as an actress. I feel like I don't have pressure to perform, which is a huge relief for me.

JOHNSON: You look great. You're not fooling anyone. You're ready for this. You're in great shape.

PAUL: My nature has never been to race. I never paid much attention to time. In my first triathlons, I actually always fell in the lower third of my age group.

JOHNSON: What's the matter with that? You only trained for six months.

PAUL: There's nothing wrong with that. It's the joy of the journey. Speed has never been my forte. It's been discipline and perseverance. That's why the Ironman is good for me. Someone once said something similar for acting—that discipline and perseverance, not talent, are the most important things to have. I think that's true of the Ironman and athletics in general.

JOHNSON: My stage was a little different. My stage wasn't in front of studio cameras. It was in front of 10 million people live. That was when I became an actor.

PAUL: Tell me about this California Quake dance I hear you're famous for.

JOHNSON: I was a little different. The reason I believe people in the media want to talk to me now about the Ironman is because when I played football I used to talk a lot in a stylish way. I had a lot of fun. I choreographed my touchdown dances. I had a dance instructor come in and think about things to do. I was playing in Dallas at the time, which was a very straight-laced team. You couldn't step over boundaries. Right now, I look at how the game has changed in a million-dollar marketing tool and it's because of people like me, who did things different. What Fred Astaire was to dance, I was to football.

PAUL: I played a Laker Girl for a TV movie, but I couldn't dance. You had to take a dance lesson before they allowed you to be cast. I took a dance lesson and flunked. They called and said, "I'm sorry, we can't hire her, she can't dance at all." But then they decided they would double for me, hire a special instructor for me and give me the part. Even so, I was so lame at the dancing, I couldn't even dance for the close-up shots. One scene, where I had to do ballet, I was so bad I ended up in tears. Everyone's a dancer in L.A. except me. I was getting so much advice I just crumbled. I sucked at dancing! Where's my double?!

JOHNSON: But you got through it.

PAUL: I did get through it. And you know what? Nobody knew the difference. ■

OVERTIME

NBC will televise the World Triathlon Championships from Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, on Oct. 18. One-quarter of the field will be comprised of women.

Dave Scott, Scott Tinley, Mark Allen, Julie Moss and Paula Newby-Fraser—the women's defending champion with a time of 9:06:49—are the only triathletes in the Ironman Hall of Fame. Belgium's Luc Van Lierde, 28, was the men's champion last year in a course-record time of 8:04:08.

ROB GALLAGHER

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Numbers Game

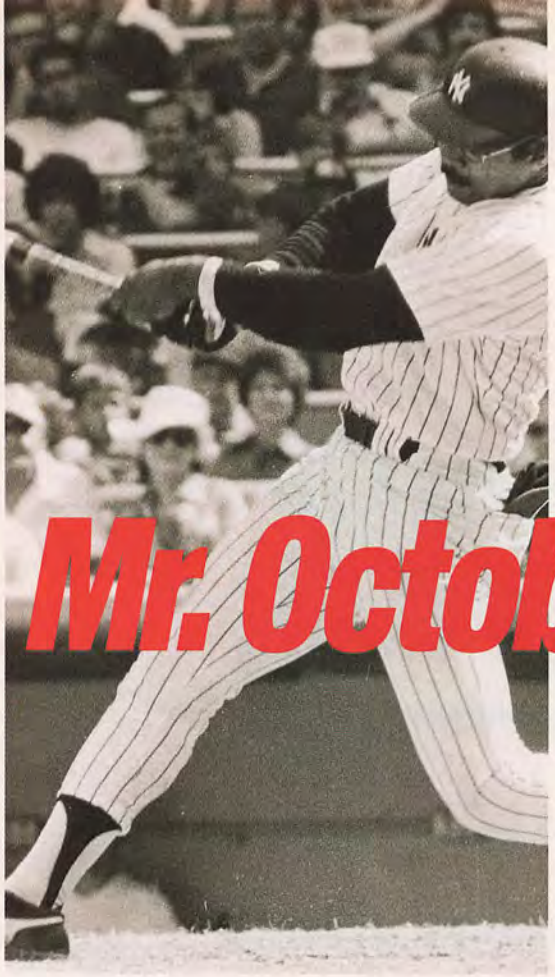
MISS OCTOBER
Ernie Banks, Willie Mays and Ted Williams are the only major-leaguers to hit 500 career homers while failing to hit one in the World Series. Williams went homerless in 25 Series at-bats, Mays in 71 at-bats, and Banks never appeared in postseason play.

NOT READY FOR PRIME TIME
The 1954 Indians, '63 Yankees and '90 A's all won at least 100 regular-season games only to get swept in the World Series.

THE PRIMEST
Deion Sanders is the only athlete to play in a Super Bowl and World Series. Sanders won NFL championship rings with the Cowboys and 49ers and hit .533 for the Braves in the '92 Fall Classic.

FOUR SCORE
Since 1969, the '77 Yankees and '93 Blue Jays are the only teams to win the World Series despite posting team ERAs above 4.00.

TWO LEGIT TO QUIT
In the 1980s and '90s, the '81 Dodgers, '85 Royals, '86 Mets and '96 Yankees are the only teams to win the World Series after being down 2-0 in games.



It looked funny to us too. A photo of Reggie Jackson, who's practically synonymous with the World Series, alongside ... the Lemmer? But the Braves' Mark Lemke, more than any other contemporary player, knows how to crank it up a notch in the postseason.

Mr. October Then...

Reggie Jackson

By Bill Madden

THERE ARE DAYS OF ABSOLUTE EUPHORIA IN A person's life that are never forgotten. It might be the birth of a child, or marriage, or maybe just the day you got your first car. In Reggie Jackson's case, there were a lot of memorable days over a Hall of Fame baseball career that spanned 21 seasons. None, however, will ever live more vividly in his mind than Oct. 18, 1977, when Jackson made baseball history by connecting for homers on three consecutive pitches. The game forever stamped Jackson as baseball's "Mr. October."

"I don't think there's any doubt that's the game I'm most remembered for," Jackson says, "and that's fine by me because it's the game I most remember."

What isn't often remembered is what transpired the game before, in which Jackson hit a meaningless eighth-inning home run off Don Sutton in a 10-4 Dodgers blowout of the Yankees. In Jackson's mind, that put him in a groove that was confirmed when he began taking batting practice prior to Game 6. "I felt really strong," Jackson says. "I can't explain it, other than the big crowds always really pumped me up."

Burt Hooton threw a first-pitch strike to Jackson in the fourth inning that he hit into the right-field seats. Before Jackson's next at-bat in the fifth, Hooton was replaced by another right-hander, Elias Sosa. As Sosa warmed up, Jackson knelt in the batting circle saying to himself: 'Please, God, let him hurry up. Let him hurry up finishing his warm up tosses because I don't want to lose this feeling I have.' ... I just wanted him to throw a strike on the first pitch, which he did—right down Broadway." Jackson again hit it hard and square into the right-field stands.

He felt even more confident when Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda brought in knuckleballer Charlie Hough to face him for his next and last at-bat of the game in the eighth. "All I could think of was: 'Wow, how many knuckleballers have I hit home runs off? At least eight or nine, off all the good ones, Hoyt Wilhelm, Eddie Fisher, Wilbur Wood. And they're bringing this guy in?' "

Hough's first pitch was a knuckler that didn't knuckle until it landed in the "black" of Yankee Stadium's center field. Twenty years later, Jackson says he still hears the crowd's roar of "Reggie! Reggie! Reggie!" reverberating in his ears every time he steps into Yankee Stadium. It is a special feeling only he can relate to—the feeling of having performed to the ultimate under pressure. Among today's players, he lists David Cone, Ken Griffey Jr. and Jeff Bagwell as having the same "game day" persona he had, but adds: "They'll probably never have the stage [five World Series] as much as I had it." ■

Reggie knew how to play for a crowd. His career World Series stats: a .357 average, 10 homers and 24 RBI in 27 games.

SPORT ARCHIVE (2)

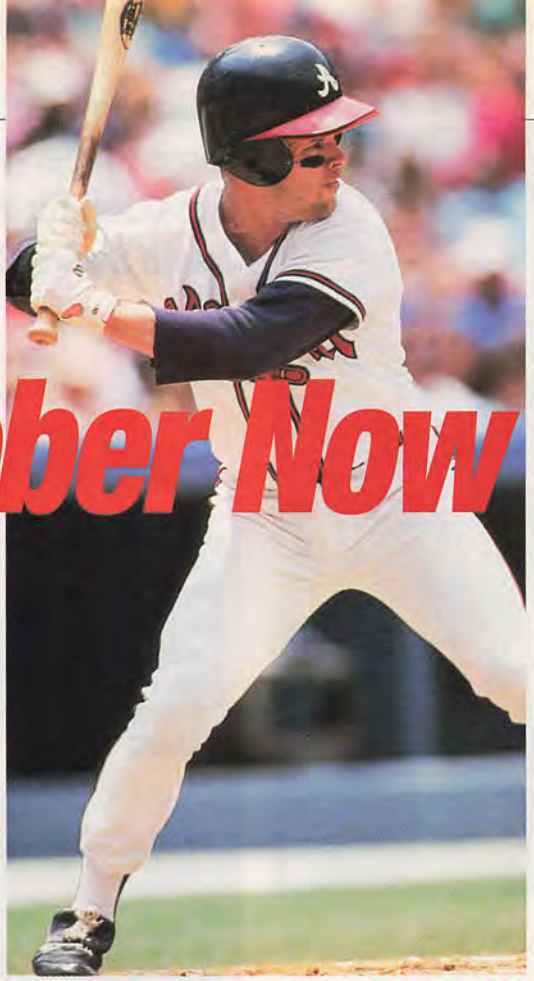
IN FACT

Other than Jackson, only Babe Ruth has clouted as many as three homers in a World Series game.

...Mr. October Now

Mark Lemke

By Joe Rutter



REGGIE JACKSON, BASEBALL'S ORIGINAL Mr. October, earned his nickname because of his muscle. Mark Lemke, this decade's fall sensation, has carved his niche because of his hustle. ¶ Lemke, the Atlanta Braves' scrappy second baseman, never will have a candy bar named in his honor. He hasn't hit one World Series homer, let alone three in a game. And at 5-foot-9, 167 pounds, he might not be the straw that stirs the drink for the Braves, but he is their steadiest playoff performer.

When the leaves begin to fall in October, so do the hits for Lemke. A career .248 hitter in the regular season, Lemke owns a lifetime .282 average in a record 31 League Championship Series games and a .286 mark in 24 World Series contests.

Lemke burst onto the scene simultaneously with the rise of the Braves in 1991, hitting .417 in Atlanta's seven-game World Series loss to the Minnesota Twins. He resurfaced as a playoff hero in last year's NLCS, batting .444 and setting a record for singles—9—in a League Championship Series. Lemke also became the first player to hit safely in all seven games of an NLCS series and extended his playoff hitting streak to 13 games.

Such success deservedly has earned Lemke the title of baseball's new Mr. October. But Braves manager Bobby Cox also appreciates the work Lemke produces in the previous six months of the year. "He comes to play every game—postseason, regular season or spring training," Cox says. "He's always up, ready to compete."

The 32-year-old Lemke is one of the few constants in the Braves' string of postseason appearances. Other playoff heroes have come and gone—David Justice, Ron Gant, Sid Bream, Francisco Cabrera, Terry Pendleton, Marquis Grissom, Otis Nixon—but Lemke is the only Atlanta position player to start regularly in the playoffs since 1991.

Lemke has overcome the odds his entire career. A 27th-round selection in the 1983 draft, he never enjoyed a .300 season at any station in seven minor-league seasons. Only once in his eight years in the bigs has Lemke batted higher than .255. He has never hit more than seven homers or driven in more than 49 runs in a season.

"He's probably the hardest worker I've ever seen in my life," says Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Al Martin, who roomed with Lemke in the minors. "Seeing him make it pushed me to make it too. I figured if he could do it, maybe I had a chance."

Lemke also keeps surviving takeover attempts on his job. This year, the Braves kept prospect Tony Graffanino on the roster and traded for infielder Keith Lockhart. Neither has been able to unseat Lemke. "I just try to do the best with the ability I have," Lemke says. "I realize somebody might step in for me someday. It's bound to happen, but I'm not worried about it." ■

The unlikeliest of heroes, Lemke is the Braves' one postseason constant.

TOM DIPACE; AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS/MARY BUTKUS

Numbers Game

CONSOLATION PRIZE

Fred Lynn (1982), Mike Scott (1986) and Jeffrey Leonard (1987) are the only players to earn LCS MVP honors in a losing cause.

POST UP

Cy Young award winners in the League Championship Series have a collective 3.13 ERA and an underwhelming 20-17 record. They've shown their true colors in the World Series with a collective 17-8 record and a 2.29 ERA.

SIZZLE AND FIZZLE

Regular-season batting champs who have failed to hit .300 in the World Series since 1948: Jackie Robinson (1949), Carl Furillo (1953), Mickey Mantle (1956), Frank Robinson (1966), Tony Gwynn (1984), Willie McGee (1985), Wade Boggs (1986) and John Olerud (1993).

ROAD KILL

The Twins are the only team to win a World Series despite not winning a game on the road—and they've done it twice, dropping all their away games in Series victories over the Cards (1987) and Braves ('91).

UNLUCKY 13

Lou Brock, Marty Barrett and Bobby Richardson share the record for hits in a World Series with 13. All three saw their teams lose in seven games.

'It Doesn't Get Any Better Than This,' Says Hall of Fame Player-Turned-Color Analyst Joe Morgan. Speaking for the Masses Who'll Tune in to NBC's World Series Broadcast, Amen

Little Joe

By Jim Armstrong

Wherever he's gone, success has followed Joe Morgan. During his illustrious baseball career, Morgan won consecutive National League MVPs and guided the Cincinnati Reds, Houston Astros and Philadelphia Phillies to postseason appearances.

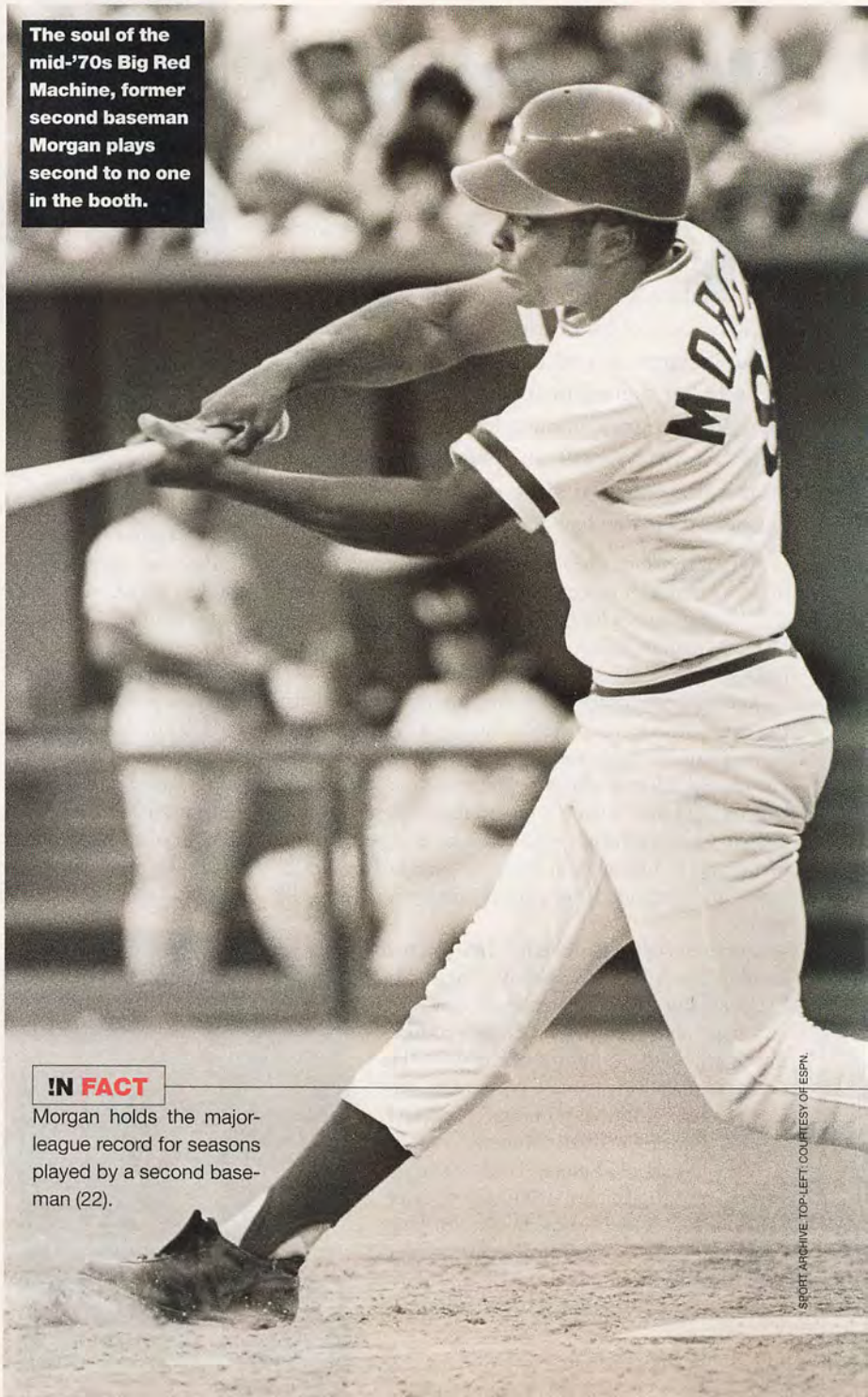
These days, Morgan is an award-winning color analyst with ESPN, having become as much a part of our Sundays as another Little Joe was during a time long since passed.

This month, Morgan will make another postseason appearance, teaming with Bob Costas and Bob Uecker for the NBC coverage of the World Series. For Morgan, this is world serious stuff. The only place he'd rather be other than the broadcast booth is second base at Riverfront Stadium, pumping his fist into his glove, watching in as Johnny Bench flashes signs to Gary Nolan.

"I have the second-best job in baseball," says Morgan, inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1990. "The best job is playing."

For all his unique insights into the game and the people who play it, Morgan is like everyone else in one respect. He can't understand how the Atlanta Braves have won just one Series in the '90s.

"The Braves have the talent for a



The soul of the mid-'70s Big Red Machine, former second baseman Morgan plays second to no one in the booth.

!N FACT

Morgan holds the major-league record for seasons played by a second baseman (22).

SPORT ARCHIVE. TOP-LEFT: COURTESY OF ESPN.

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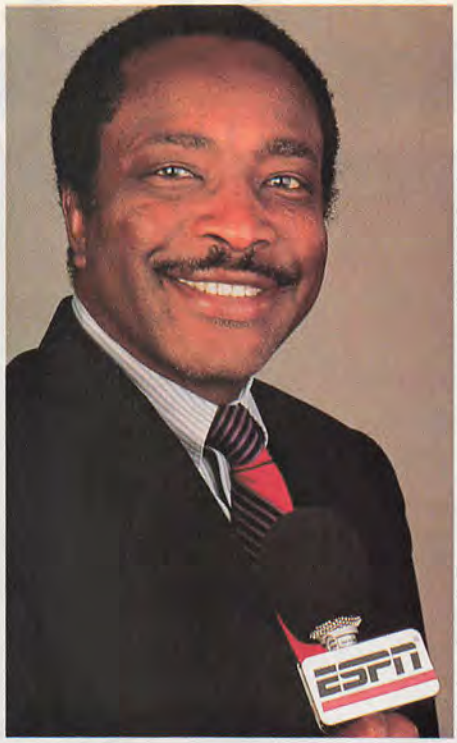

COURTESY OF ESPN

"The Braves have the talent for a dynasty, but I don't think you can call it a dynasty unless you win. To have a pitching staff like that and to win only one of four World Series, something's missing."

dynasty, but I don't think you can call it a dynasty unless you win," Morgan says. "To have a pitching staff like that and to win only one of four World Series, something's missing. Everybody can grab their own opinion, but something's definitely missing."

Morgan has a message for fans in the Eastern time zone: Brace yourselves for more games ending past midnight, coming soon to a ballpark near you. He doesn't think the Series will involve any team west of Atlanta. His two leading candidates to face the Braves? The Baltimore Orioles and New York Yankees.

"The Orioles are a different team this year," he says. "Last year, they had a bunch of designated hitters. This year, they're a more balanced team. They've played well all year, so you've got to give them credit. When they're not hitting, they have a way of manufacturing runs. I really think Baltimore is going to be there at the end."

Unless, of course, they lose in the playoffs to the Yankees, whom Morgan believes have the horses to get to the finish line, with or without significant contributions from Japanese import Hideki Irabu. "They haven't played as well this year as last year, but they played their best baseball in the postseason, and they could do it again."

Morgan approaches his broadcasting career with the same spirit and devotion he embodied as a player. If Pete Rose was the heart of the Big Red Machine, Morgan was its soul. No less an authority than Sparky Anderson says Morgan was the leader of those Cincinnati teams of the mid-1970s. You wonder sometimes, when the camera isn't on him, whether he still flaps his left arm while the pitcher is in mid-windup.

"I always wanted to be the best I could be," Morgan says. "Nellie Fox was my idol as a kid, and I got to play with him in Houston. We were working out one day and he told me: 'You have twice as much ability as I had. The only thing that will keep you out of the Hall of Fame is if you don't work hard.' I've never forgotten that. I worked hard as a player, and it's the same thing with my broadcasting career. I try to bring some passion into the broadcast. I think people can tell I love the game."

Morgan has had several opportunities to return to the game he loves but turned down each. The Padres, Angels and Astros tried to hire him as their managers. He also had two offers to become a general manager and another to become president of the National League.

"I'm kind of independent," Morgan says. "I've always been able to walk away on my own terms. I even had a year left on my contract when I retired. The rea-

son I turned down all those jobs is that, no matter how good a job you do, you're going to get fired. I guess I always wanted to control my own destiny."

While turning down significant opportunities in baseball, Morgan has alienated some who believe he could have played a role similar to Jackie Robinson in opening more doors for black managerial candidates.

"I've been criticized by some of the black guys who wanted to be managers," Morgan says. "I understood their position, but I've always carried the torch in a different way. I've always talked about it. It's always been, 'If I have a manager's job open, Joe Morgan is the guy.' I'm flattered in one sense but offended in another. It's almost like they're saying the other candidates can't do the job."

Morgan has three years remaining on his contracts with ESPN and NBC. What then? He enjoys what he's doing too much to quit any time soon, but when that day comes, he'll have a lot to be thankful for. He played in the 1975 Series, arguably the greatest ever, and he played on the Reds of the mid-'70s, arguably the greatest team ever. He played against Willie Mays and hit against Sandy Koufax, yet he played long enough to earn a $1 million salary in the twilight of his career. Morgan was voted into the Hall of Fame on the first ballot and is considered one of the best, if not the best, color analyst in the business. It's a wonderful life all right.

"When I sit back after I'm no longer broadcasting, I'll probably feel like something was missing because I didn't get into managing," Morgan says. "But all in all, I wouldn't change anything. I'm very content with what's happened to me. I left Oakland in 1963 at 140 pounds, and I wound up in the Hall of Fame. I've played on world championship teams, I've been a successful businessman and I love my job as a broadcaster. To me, it doesn't get any better than this." ■

OVERTIME

The World Series, televised by NBC, begins Saturday, Oct. 18. In baseball's 2-3-2 format, the first two games will be hosted by the National League, the next three by the American League (Game 5, if necessary), and then the last two, if necessary, back to the NL.

For more info, check out the MLB web site: www.majorleaguebaseball.com

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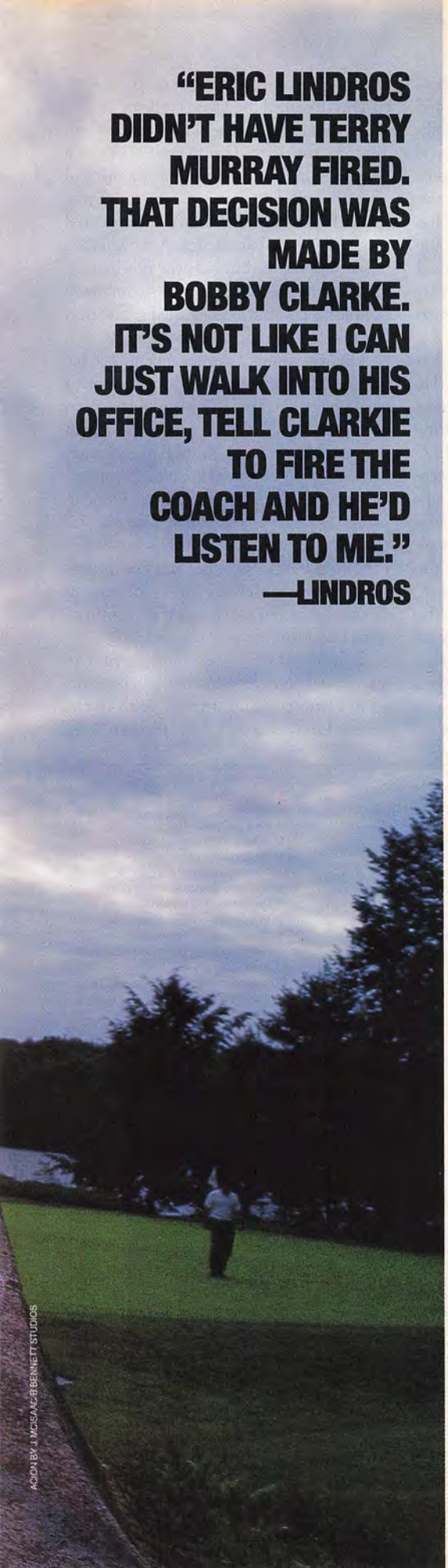
Just 24, Lindros would seem to be on top of the hockey world, though slipups at last year's World Cup and NHL finals leave some room for doubt.

IN FACT
The Flyers are 155-100-42 with Lindros in the lineup, 34-40-9 without him.

"ERIC LINDROS DIDN'T HAVE TERRY MURRAY FIRED. THAT DECISION WAS MADE BY BOBBY CLARKE. IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN JUST WALK INTO HIS OFFICE, TELL CLARKIE TO FIRE THE COACH AND HE'D LISTEN TO ME."
—LINDROS



ACTION BY J. MCISAAC/B. BERNETT/ STUDIOS

With Gretzky, Lemieux and Messier Off Center Stage, the Question Begs Asking: Can the Flyers' Eric Lindros Carry the Mantle as...

The Next One?

By Barry M. Bloom • Lead Photograph by Russell Monk

THE LATE AFTERNOON SUMMER SUN IS PLAYING HIDE-AND-seek with a high cloud cover, turning a small Ontario pond into a pool of steel gray. Eric Lindros is sitting on a wooden dock, his legs crossed, a black fishing pole in his lap.

Up here in Cottage Country, some three hours north of Toronto in the land of myriad pine trees and a thousand lakes, Lindros is not "The Next One." The Philadelphia Flyers captain is simply another 24-year-old, enjoying a summer vacation with close friends and family. Up here in what is the great frozen North during winter time, Lindros has to lead no one, a far cry from the torturous week in June his Flyers endured while being summarily swept in the Stanley Cup Finals by the underdog Detroit Red Wings.

Lindros knows pressure and suffering all too well despite his short and sometimes glorious stint in hockey's top league. At age 16, he was selected as the No. 1 overall pick in the 1991 NHL entry draft by his hometown Quebec Nordiques, refused to sign and was shipped to Philadelphia in a blockbuster trade that gave Quebec Peter Forsberg and earned Lindros the wrath of his native province.

But hockey is the last thing on Lindros' mind as he casts into the lake, the sounds of hockey replaced by the serenity of the great outdoors—until the subject turns back to pucks and a certain label with his name written all over it: The Next One.

"I really don't like that term," Lindros says. "I want to be the best player I can be and I want to play great hockey. I think I've played real well in the last three years, improved my game and gotten better. I'm only 24. I'm going to keep improving."

With Wayne Gretzky aging, Mario Lemieux having retired and Mark Messier

shunning the glare of New York for the comfort of Vancouver, Lindros may indeed be the NHL's guiding light. But who is the real Eric Lindros? Is he the player who disappeared in Canada's stunning loss to Team USA during last year's World Cup or the guy who single-handedly beat the New York Rangers to send the Flyers into the Stanley Cup Finals for the first time in a decade? Is he the undisputed team leader or the player who refused to take the heat as the Flyers disintegrated in an embarrassing four-and-out championship-round loss to Detroit?

Lindros uses the links as therapy to drive away bitter memories of his Flyers' finals upset demolition by Detroit.

While the public waited to hear from Lindros, he stayed behind the scenes as a philosophical conflict with coach Terry Murray percolated to the surface during the finals. Murray was eventually fired, replaced by first-year coach Wayne Cashman.

The Next One?

"There's more to it than being a top-end player," says Carl Lindros, Eric's father, confidant and agent. "The role you're talking about is one where you understand the whole industry and also have an appreciation for the role everyone has to play. Eric is still going through a learning process. I do think that for Eric to play his best, he has to help others play their best."

At times, Lindros has looked like the best. He earned the regular-season scoring title and MVP during the lockout-shortened 1995 season when the Flyers were dumped by eventual Cup-winning New Jersey in the Eastern Conference finals. Last spring's stellar playoff performance was marred by the Flyers' collapse to Detroit in the Cup Finals.

Lindros destroyed the Rangers in the conference finals with his first career playoff hat trick in Game 3 and the winning goal in the waning seconds of Game 4, both efforts coming on Madison Square Garden ice.

A week later, the Flyers were swept by Detroit in the finals. Murray, their own coach, had called the Flyers chokers.

Lindros, who was held to a goal and an assist in the series, hardly acted like the team captain. With the Flyers down 3-0 and after the off-day skate in which Murray assailed the team, Lindros disappeared much like he had on the ice. After Murray's news conference, Lindros was nowhere to be found in the locker room as teammates from John LeClair to embattled goalie Ron Hextall stood up and took the heat.

Lindros admits that leaving was a big mistake. "I am disappointed I wasn't there. I would have liked to have been in the room to answer back." By that point, the rancor between Murray and Lindros had gone public. During an off-day skate after a particularly poor showing by the Flyers at home in Game 1, Lindros and Murray had an animated on-ice discussion. Lindros says it was just two guys discussing hockey. But he wasn't happy with Murray's line combinations or change of philosophy as the nightmare series unfolded.

Murray said he was simply trying to address a defensive breakdown that resulted in Detroit scoring 14 easy goals in the series. Lindros didn't buy it then, and

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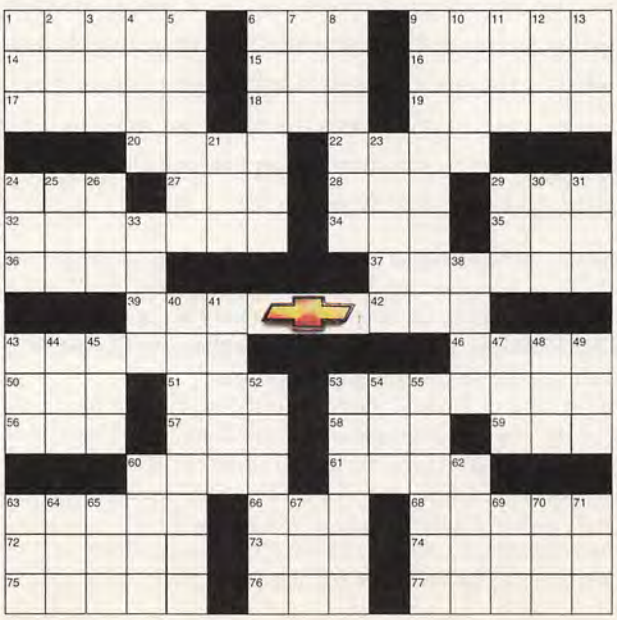
The Chevrolet Truck Sport Puzzle

By Stanley Newman



Across

1. Defeated, in chess
6. AL team, on scoreboards
9. Rodeo great Larry
14. '97 baseball All-Star game city: abbr.
15. Sportscaster's exclamation
16. Friend, to Fernando
17. Take a nap
18. Lifesaving technique: abbr.
19. Bowling-alley button
20. Tackle the ball carrier
22. The basics
24. Give-__-go
27. Salt Lake City athlete
28. Ivy Leaguer
29. Namath, in '77
32. Holyfield KO'd him in '90
34. Mauna __ (Hawaiian volcano)
35. Jackie Robinson's "I Never Had It Made," for one
36. "It ain't __ till it's over"
37. Kind of kick
39. Free throw's path
42. Short pass
43. Fairway menace
46. Real first name of "Nasty"
50. 5 Down's conference
51. '60s Giants wide receiver Shofner
53. Word on a ballpark ticket
56. World Series month: abbr.
57. Boston NLer, in the '30s
58. 1960 World Series hero's nickname
59. Hall of Fame pitcher Galvin
60. Mr. Blue
61. Penalty __ (soccer spot)
63. Provide the refreshments
66. Felix Blanchard's nickname
68. "THE MOST DEPENDABLE, LONGEST-LASTING TRUCKS"
72. Like Greg Norman
73. Deer relative
74. Brought on, as a manager
75. Some tennis tournament entrants
76. Highways: abbr.
77. Sports trivia

Down

1. Banquet hosts: abbr.
2. Apiece, in tennis
3. Placekicker's prop
4. Neither under par nor over par
5. The Blue Demons
6. Emulates Greg LeMond
7. In the know
8. Maccabiah Games locale
9. "Somebody Up There Likes Me" subject
10. Iowa State city
11. __ Majesty (ump Cal Hubbard's nickname)
12. Racehorse classification
13. __ out (still batting, in cricket)
21. Call __ career (retire): 2 wds.
23. Texas Leaguer
24. Fuss
25. New York City Marathon month: abbr.
26. Ready to break out of a slump
29. Box score column
30. Assistance
31. Downhill winner at Lillehammer
33. Third woman to win a tennis grand slam
38. It was banned on baseballs in 1920
40. Cardinals' nickname
41. Rocky Balboa opponent
43. Twosome
44. Lynn Swann's alma mater
45. Easy to hit, as a pitch
47. Edge of a golf hole
48. Debtor's letters
49. Passer rusher
52. One in first place
53. Hits the ball hard
54. Focus of the Tyson/Holyfield story
55. Navratilova and Lendl
60. Do a stadium job
62. "We want __!" (ballpark shout): 2 wds.
63. "American Gladiators" network
64. A favorite Babe Ruth drink
65. Golf-club part
67. __ Lady (Billie Jean King's nickname)
69. Bob Gibson's was 1.12 in '68
70. Longtime player
71. Gridiron gains: abbr.

See page 110 for Chevrolet Truck SPORT Puzzle answers.

doesn't buy it now.

"We played a system for three years," Lindros says. "We have big, strong forwards that love to get to the fore-check, and that was our game. We like to control the puck in the corners and make plays out of the corners. Keep things deep. We can be flashy when there are opportunities, but we're not a real flashy hockey club. We grind. You don't change to a 1-4—one man chasing and another four hanging back—in the middle of the Stanley Cup Finals when you've never played that for three years."

By the time the series was over, Lindros looked wide-eyed, like a deer stranded on a Cottage Country two-lane staring into the beams of a fast-approaching pick-up truck. "It was a blur," Lindros says now about the series. For The Next One, it would be wait 'til next year. Lindros dismisses the accusation that he hardly acted like a leader during the finals.

"I am the leader of the Flyers," he says. "Do I mind that being on my shoulders at this point? Not at all. I like it. I love it. As far as my place in the rest of the league goes, I don't really get too high or low about it. It doesn't really get me going either way. Just as long as we're winning. That's all I truly care about."

The Flyers came out of the Cup finals in disarray. GM Bobby Clarke acted like Clarke the player, carving up Murray with the blade of his stick. Murray's statement, that his Flyers were in a "choking situation," evidently sealed his fate.

By the time of the firing, Lindros was ensconced up in the back country and not available for comment. Lindros does not hide his disdain for Murray but denies that he had any influence on Clarke's decision.

"Eric Lindros didn't have Terry Murray fired," Lindros says. "That decision was made by Bobby Clarke. It's not like I can just walk into his office, tell Clarkie to fire the coach and he'd listen to me."

But when asked if Clarke acts as a sounding board for players, Lindros admits: "Clarkie? Yeah. Clarke really has an open door."

Clarkie ultimately hired the untried Cashman, a tough guy on the Bobby Orr-Phil Esposito Boston Bruins teams that won Stanley Cups in 1970 and '72. Cashman's shot at taking the Flyers to the next level may rest solely on his ability to gain Lindros' respect.

Asked to define what needs to be altered in the club's chemistry, Lindros broods. "Some of the same things we were doing. Our team always had a good work ethic. The guys worked hard for one another. At times our communication can improve."

Among each other or with the coaches?

"Everything. We're all in it together. We don't need people running for the door when the going gets tough."

Lindros made no mistake about who he felt bailed on the team when the going got tough last season.

"He won't be with us this year. Cashman will be here." ■

OVERTIME

If you're in the Philly vicinity and want to check out some hockey, here are a few of the Flyers' early-season good ones:

- **Pittsburgh, Oct. 9**
- **New Jersey, Oct. 27**
- **Colorado, Nov. 13**

Lindros and the Flyers no doubt have Jan. 24 circled on their calendar. That'll be their first attempt to avenge last June's finals sweep by Detroit.

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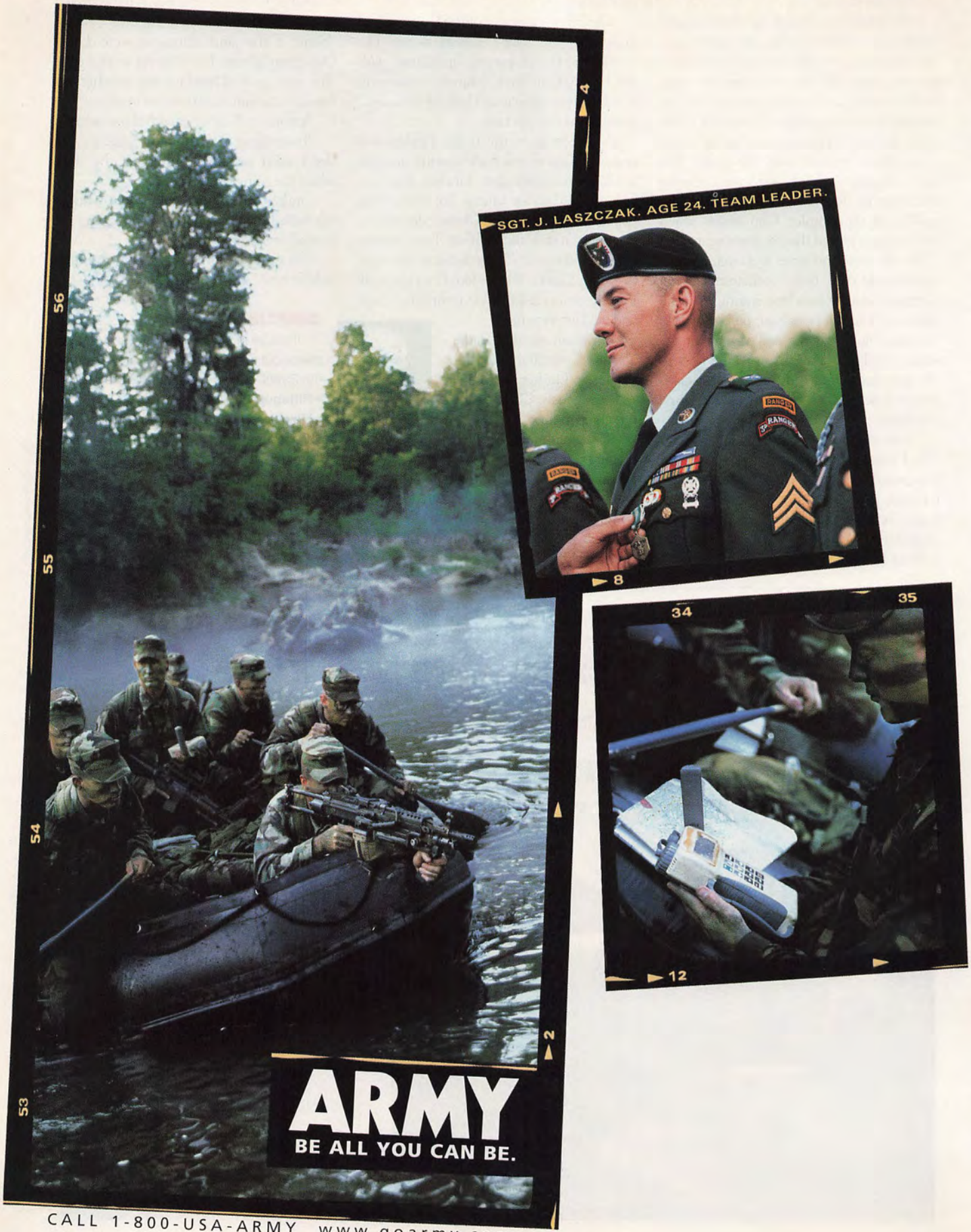

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NHL Preview

By Barry M. Bloom

The Flyers Are Leaner and Meaner and Eager to Make Amends for Last Season's Sweeping Finals Embarrassment

TOM DIPACE; RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

NHL Preview '97-98

Eastern Conference

1. Philadelphia Flyers

THEY ADDRESSED DEFENSIVE BREAKDOWNS AGAINST DETROIT BY SIGNING Edmonton's Luke Richardson, 29, to a free-agent contract, then sent Mikael Renberg and Karl Dykhuis to Tampa Bay for promising forward Chris Gratton, 22. Now the goaltending waltz needs to end. If Ron Hextall and Garth Snow can't cut it, get someone else. Eric Lindros must stay injury-free, step up and act like a captain from start to finish. He's only 24, but he missed 23 games last season with a groin injury sustained in the World Cup.

2. Pittsburgh Penguins

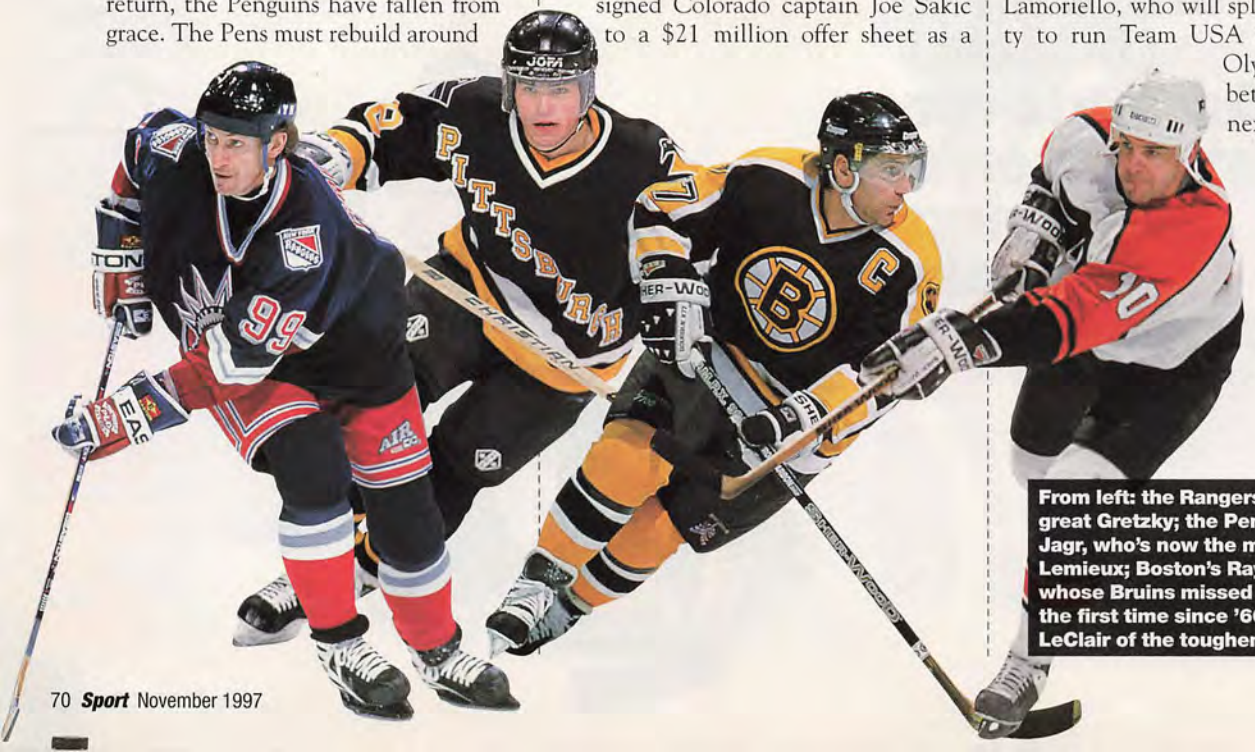
Mario Lemieux is gone but certainly not forgotten. He led the Penguins to two Stanley Cups in the early '90s but missed the 1994-95 season recovering from Hodgkin's disease. And though he won back-to-back scoring titles after his return, the Penguins have fallen from grace. The Pens must rebuild around Jaromir Jagr and shore up a porous defense that allowed 280 goals last season, next-to-last in the East.

3. New York Rangers

Soon after disgruntled captain Mark Messier fled to Vancouver, the Rangers signed Colorado captain Joe Sakic to a $21 million offer sheet as a first-line center, but the Avalanche matched the offer and the Rangers again were left at the altar. The Rangers, however, did manage some nice off-season signings, including Colorado's Mike Keane, Florida's Brian Skrudland and St. Louis' Mike Peluso, but trading Luc Robitaille to the Kings for Kevin Stevens is a reach. Wayne Gretzky, who came up big in the playoffs, returns to fulfill the second year of his contract.

4. New Jersey Devils

Much of the off-season was spent in arbitration with Doug Gilmour and Mike Dunham, who has no future in goal behind the agile Martin Brodeur, 25. Jacques Lemaire wondered after a disastrous postseason if it wasn't wise for him to leave. But a contract is a contract, said general manager Lou Lamoriello, who will split his personality to run Team USA in the Nagano Olympics. Best bet: Lemaire is the next coach to go.



From left: the Rangers' still-pretty-great Gretzky; the Penguins' Jaromir Jagr, who's now the man minus Lemieux; Boston's Ray Borque, whose Bruins missed the playoffs for the first time since '66-67; and John LeClair of the toughened Flyers.

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5. Florida Panthers

Two seasons removed from a loss in the Cup finals, the Panthers are trying to address their biggest problem: offense. They signed Calgary's Dave Gagner, a legitimate scorer (27 goals, 60 points) up front, but lost captain Brian Skrudland, "the best leader I've ever been around," says coach Doug MacLean. The Panthers must find a way to sign mainstays Scott Mellanby and John Vanbiesbrouck, who become unrestricted free agents next summer.

6. Washington Capitals

The additions of Adam Oates, Rick Tocchet and Bill Ranford from Boston weren't enough to put the Caps over the top. Tocchet has already fled to Phoenix. Heads have already rolled. Vancouver's George McPhee replaced Dave Poile as GM. A bid to sign Mark Messier failed. Oates spent the summer in acrimonious contract talks. Still, the MCI Center opens in downtown Washington, D.C. on Dec. 5, and Ron Wilson, the man who won the World Cup as coach for Team USA, is expected to take Peter Bondra and company where they've never been before.

7. Montreal Canadiens

Les Habs have finally admitted the folly of their great Dec. 5, 1995, trade. That was the day a personality conflict between Mario Tremblay and Patrick Roy erupted into the swap that sent Roy to Colorado. Tremblay has since departed in disgrace, and the club with 24 Stanley Cups has improved its goaltending by signing Dallas' Andy Moog to a two-year, $2.4 million contract. The Habs allowed 276 goals last year. Moog, 37, had a 2.15 goals-against average.

8. Buffalo Sabres

You'd never know this team had gone from nowhere to the division title in one short season. A teeming personality conflict between GM John Muckler and coach of the year Ted Nolan ended in both men being fired. The big victor was Dominik Hasek, who won the Vezina Trophy as the best goalie and the Hart Trophy as league MVP, then disappeared in the playoffs with an alleged knee injury and publicly trashed Nolan.

9. Carolina Hurricanes

When owner Peter Karmanos ripped the Whalers out of Hartford, he couldn't have anticipated this: By early August, his club had sold only 3,000 season tickets at the 21,000-seat Greensboro Coliseum, where the Canes will play for two seasons until a new arena is built in neighboring Raleigh. Compare and contrast: When the Nordiques fled Quebec for Denver two seasons ago, the new Avalanche sold 8,000 season tickets the first week. Oh my. At the Civic Center last season, the Whale sold 9,500 season tickets and averaged 13,500 a game. Oh no.

10. Tampa Bay Lightning

A summer of contentious negotiations to sell the franchise didn't make it any easier for GM Phil Esposito to move forward. First, an apparent deal with Gavin Maloof, whose family once owned the NBA Houston Rockets, fell through when Maloof tried to change already-negotiated deal points. Then All-Star Dino Ciccarelli said Espo welched on a promise to extend his contract if he scored 30 goals. Dino scored 35. No extension. Finally, the Flyers outbid Espo for Chris Gratton. Veterans Mikael Renberg and Karl Dykhuis came in return. But how about that addition of Oilers wing Vladimir Vujtek? Better start polishing up those championship rings.

11. Ottawa Senators

Just when you think you're over the hump, a little thing like money gets in the way. The Senators treated the free-agent market like a Quebecois treats an Englishman—with disdain. When the dust settled, little was done to improve a club that cracked the Top Eight for the first time in its brief history. The big question: Will third-round pick Jani Hurme push incumbent goalie Ron Tugnutt? Stay tuned.

12. Boston Bruins

Not since Bobby Orr laced on the skates for the first time 30 years ago has there been such anticipation for a young Beantown player. Obviously, GM Harry Sinden must think Joe Thornton, 18, is the real goods. Sinden, a tight-wad by nature who mismanaged this team out of the playoffs last season for the first time since Orr was a rookie (1966-67), shelled out a guaranteed $2.8 million to the high school forward and top pick in the draft, who is touted as the next Eric Lindros.

13. New York Islanders

This was supposed to be the season the Islanders returned to glory. Then owner John Spano had to shell out $3 million on bail instead of free agents. Bye-bye, Mark Messier, hello another season out of the playoffs. Spano, charged with wire fraud and bank fraud, had to return the team to skin flint John Pickett. Lucky GM Mike Milbury had already signed free agents Mike Hough from Florida, Sergei Nemchinov from the crosstown Rangers, and Wade Flaherty from the Sharks.

Power Rankings

1. **Philadelphia:** By tackling toughness, Cup is half-Phil
2. **Colorado:** No ordinary Joe, Sakic isn't paid like one
3. **Detroit:** Off-season tragedy could derail repeat hopes
4. **Pittsburgh:** Post-Mario era revolves around Jagr
5. **N.Y. Rangers:** Leetch, Richter assume bigger roles
6. **Dallas:** Rising Stars are no one-year wonders
7. **New Jersey:** Lemaire's on thin ice, team's on solid ground
8. **Vancouver:** Messier: Too little left to make a difference
9. **Anaheim:** Ducks take new Page from Disney script
10. **Phoenix:** New faces give Coyotes more bite
11. **Florida:** A solid D, but still lacking O. Rats!
12. **Washington:** Fans are charged with Capital offense
13. **Montreal:** Habs are years from serious contention
14. **Buffalo:** Who gets fired next, the organist?
15. **St. Louis:** Hull has his coach, still can't win
16. **Edmonton:** Young, entertaining Oilers are ones to watch
17. **Carolina:** If nothing else, winter weather will be better
18. **Chicago:** Blackhawks now thirstiest team in NHL
19. **Los Angeles:** Quick, name a King. Enough said
20. **Tampa Bay:** Espo better on skates than in front office
21. **Ottawa:** Don't let the postseason appearance fool you
22. **Boston:** You've got to feel for Borque
23. **Calgary:** The rich get richer, the poor go to Alberta
24. **Toronto:** Sundin's for real, though Leafs aren't
25. **N.Y. Islanders:** Money was spent on bail, not free agents
26. **San Jose:** No bite out of wallet, no sip out of Cup

IN FACT Edmonton is the last of the four old WHA teams to remain in its original city. Quebec, Winnipeg and Hartford are already gone. The Oilers are up for sale and could be headed to Houston.

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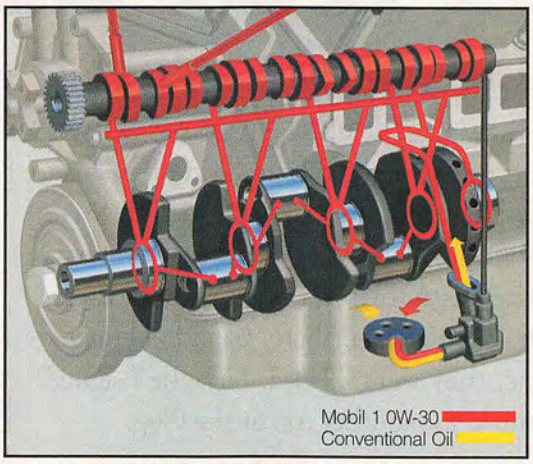

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Western Conference

1. Colorado Avalanche

THE AVS HAD YET TO RECOVER FROM LAST SPRING'S STUNNING PLAYOFF rejection when star center Joe Sakic signed a $21 million offer sheet with the Rangers. But when management announced a new Denver arena, Colorado matched the offer to help sell those new club seats and luxury suites. The Avs finished with the NHL's best regular-season record despite key injuries to Sakic, Peter Forsberg, Claude Lemieux and Uwe Krupp. Without Sakic, they went 11-4-2. Now he's signed and healthy, and the Avs are primed for another run at the Cup.

2. Detroit Red Wings

Igor Larionov signed a three-year, $6 million contract in August, then he and Slava Kozlov took the Stanley Cup on its first visit to Russia. Heady times. Meanwhile, Slava Fetisov and Vladimir Konstantinov spent the summer recovering from injuries sustained in the limousine accident heard 'round the world. Konstantinov is slowly recovering from head injuries. And when was the last time a playoff MVP was traded? That's what goalie Mike Vernon, dealt to San Jose, would like to know.

3. Dallas Stars

For GM Bob Gainey, last season was not a one-year rebound from oblivion. The Stars are serious about taking it to the next level. Free-agent signings of New Jersey's Shawn Chambers and San Jose's Eddie Belfour shored up the defense and goaltending. Left wing Benoit Hogue also re-signed for one year at $1.25 million. The great season has already taken hockey to another level in Dallas. Season-ticket sales are up 12 percent.

4. Vancouver Canucks

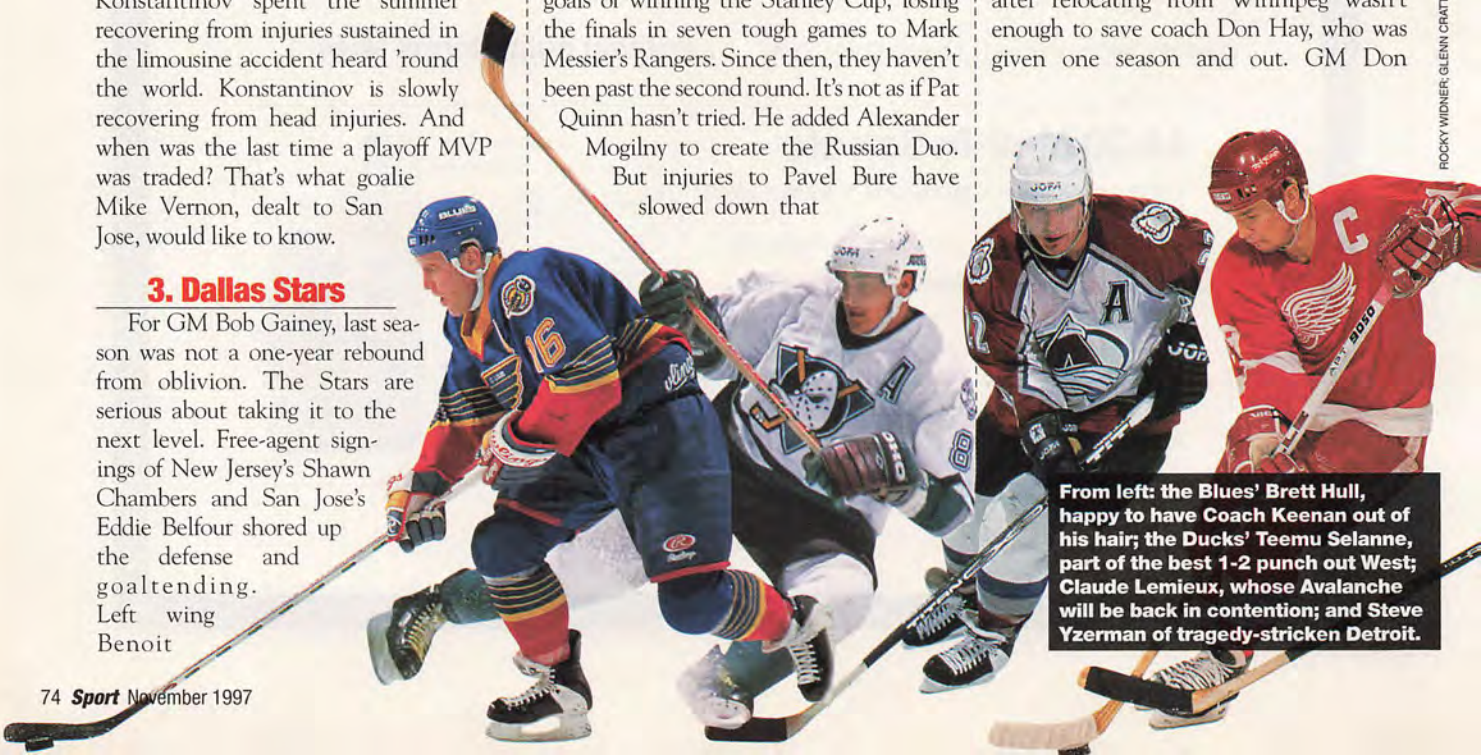
In 1994, these guys came within two goals of winning the Stanley Cup, losing the finals in seven tough games to Mark Messier's Rangers. Since then, they haven't been past the second round. It's not as if Pat Quinn hasn't tried. He added Alexander Mogilny to create the Russian Duo. But injuries to Pavel Bure have slowed down that fleet-footed pair. Time for a bold move. But is Messier, 36, the answer? The new Canucks captain scored three postseason goals, seriously fading for the first time when the money was on the line.

5. Anaheim Mighty Ducks

Who would've thunk it? The Ducks go to the playoffs for the first time. It takes Detroit, the eventual Cup winner, three overtime victories to sweep them out of the playoffs. Teemu Selanne and Paul Kariya finish 2-3 in regular-season scoring behind Mario Lemieux. All this despite the team having as much depth as a Disney animation. So coach Ron Wilson is canned in a personality conflict with club president Tony Tavares, replaced by Pierre Page.

6. Phoenix Coyotes

A decent inaugural season in the desert after relocating from Winnipeg wasn't enough to save coach Don Hay, who was given one season and out. GM Don



From left: the Blues' Brett Hull, happy to have Coach Keenan out of his hair; the Ducks' Teemu Selanne, part of the best 1-2 punch out West; Claude Lemieux, whose Avalanche will be back in contention; and Steve Yzerman of tragedy-stricken Detroit.

ROCKY WIDNER; GLENN CRATTY/ALLSPORT; NEVIN REID/ALLSPORT; ROCKY WIDNER.

ROCKY WIDNER

Paddock didn't even last that long. Jeremy Roenick was just settling in when he ripped apart his knee against the Ducks in the playoffs. But current GM Billy Smith keeps trying. Almost as soon as Kris King left for Toronto, Smith signed Rick Tocchet to a three-year, $4.65 million deal.

Predictions

Stanley Cup–Philadelphia over Colorado
Hart Trophy (MVP)–Eric Lindros, Philadelphia
Ross Trophy (scoring title)–Paul Kariya, Anaheim
Vezina Trophy (top goalie)–Patrick Roy, Colorado
Norris Trophy (top defenseman)–Brian Leetch, Rangers
Lady Byng Trophy (sportsmanship)–Teemu Selanne, Anaheim
Calder Trophy (top rookie)–Joe Thornton, Boston
Jack Adams Award (top coach)–Jim Schoenfeld, Phoenix
Executive of the Year–Bobby Clarke, Philadelphia

7. St. Louis Blues

The Mike Keenan era is over. But it may take more than half a season for that disaster to seep out of the system of a franchise that has not won a Stanley Cup in its 30-year existence. Keenan has yet to resurface somewhere in the NHL, which is still too close for comfort for star forward Brett Hull. The Blues are relying on Pierre Turgeon, 28 and at the crossroads in his career, to step up and show them the way.

8. Edmonton Oilers

Owner Peter Pocklington's financial problems finally have caught up with him. The team is for sale. Commish Gary Bettman says the top priority is to keep the team in Edmonton, but there's not much money to help this club continue forward. Defenseman Luke Richardson took a big free-agent deal with the Flyers. Dallas' Bill Huard was signed, and slugger Brantt Myhres was obtained from Tampa.

9. Chicago Blackhawks

The Blackhawks' 36-year Cup drought is now the longest in the NHL. They have won only three times—1934, '38 and '61—but have been to the playoffs every season since 1970, missing only once in the last 39 years (1969). Bill Wirtz, one of the last old-line owners, is trying to hold the line against progress. In this case, that means player salaries. After last year's contract debacles with Jeremy Roenick and Eddie Belfour, it was good news when 41-goal scorer Tony Amonte was signed to a five-year, $15 million deal.

10. Los Angeles Kings

Since losing in the 1993 Cup finals to Montreal, this team has changed hands twice, had a former owner—Bruce McNall—go to jail, embarrassed itself by degrading and trading Wayne Gretzky, and has missed the playoffs each year. Something had to give, and last spring somebody decided it was all the fault of GM Sam McMaster, who was replaced by Dave Taylor. The club's slogan last season, "Serious Hockey," was a shot at the Ducks and should have been amended to "Seriously Bad Hockey."

11. Calgary Flames

The team that won the Stanley Cup in 1989 hasn't been past the first round since. It's not hard to understand why clubs remain perennial bottom-feeders in the NHL these days. It's all about money. This past off-season, these guys flamed out in the free-agent market and even took it on the chin when Dave Gagner signed with Florida and goalie Trevor Kidd was traded to Carolina for a bunch of prospects. No wonder the smaller Canadian cities are on the NHL's endangered-species list.

12. Toronto Maple Leafs

Once one of hockey's premier franchises, the Leafs play in the league's oldest building, traded away franchise player Doug Gilmour to New Jersey, and haven't won the Cup since 1967. GM Cliff Fletcher was canned, and Ken Dryden, who has been in hockey mothballs for 20 years, was dusted off to run operations. Dryden spent the summer trying to find a new GM—before hiring himself. But a bigger budget allowed Dryden to sign free-agent forwards Kris King, Mike Kennedy and Derek King, and goalie Glen Healy.

13. San Jose Sharks

In their six seasons in the league, the Sharks have averaged 21 wins a year, relying on tired veterans. The solution? Trade for Murray Craven, Stephane Matteau and Shawn Burr, who've totaled more than 2,000 games. Mike Vernon, who came from Detroit, is their fourth veteran goalie in the last three years. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

■ Catering to younger fans and a wider TV audience, the NHL has moved this season's All-Star game from Saturday night to Sunday afternoon. The puck will drop for the game, slated for Vancouver's GM Place, on Jan. 18, at 1 p.m. (EDT).

■ The NHL will shut down from Feb. 8-24 to make way for its players to take part in the Nagano Winter Olympics. If last year's World Cup was any indication, the Olympics should provide epic hockey.

■ The NHL will expand again, this time by four teams, making it a 30-team league by the end of 2000. Here's the plan: Nashville in 1998-99, Atlanta in 1999-2000, Minneapolis-St. Paul (playing in St. Paul) and Columbus, Ohio, in 2000-2001. The NHL will realign into six divisions beginning in 1998-99. Here's the new breakdown, phased in over three seasons and ending in 2000-2001:

East

Atlantic: New Jersey, N.Y. Rangers, N.Y. Islanders, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh.
Northeast: Boston, Buffalo, Montreal, Ottawa (Columbus, 2000-2001).
Southeast: Carolina, Florida, Tampa Bay, Washington (Atlanta, 1999-2000).

West

Central: Chicago, Detroit, St. Louis, Toronto (Nashville, 1998-99).
Northwest: Calgary, Colorado, Edmonton, Vancouver (Minneapolis-St.Paul, 2000-2001).
Pacific: Anaheim, Dallas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, San Jose.

Note: Sixteen teams will still qualify for the playoffs. The first-place team in each division is automatically in, followed by the next five teams with the best records in each conference.

A tad rusty in the crease, Reeves nonetheless ate up his time on the ice, which has become infrequent due to those pesky multimillion-dollar movie deals.

Hollywood's Keanu Reeves Is Right at Home on Frozen Pond

'Speed' Skater

By Randy Williams

Fitting, isn't it, that the star of an action thriller like *Speed* was a former hockey goalie? That's right, Keanu Reeves, one of Hollywood's coolest characters, grew up emulating, not Cary Grant but Toronto Maple Leafs Hall of Fame netminder Jacques Plante.

"I loved watching Jacques with all those pads and big glove and stick, playing the whole game knocking 'em down," says Reeves, who like most youngsters in wintry Canada took up ice hockey at about the same time he could walk. "To me, being a goalie is great. I've been playing that position all my life. I like the pressure of being the last line of defense."

Despite playing well enough to rise to the ranks of the junior tiers of organized hockey, Reeves traded in screaming pucks for a screaming Sandra Bullock (nice move) only to find that his big-screen successes have kept him too far from the action in the rink.

Having appeared in 23 films since breaking into the industry 17 years ago at age 16, Reeves has found little time for the ice. Couple his acting time constraints with those of another hobby—jamming with his rock band Dogstar—the Toronto native sneaks in ice time infrequently at best.

"I don't get to play as much as I'd like," Reeves laments. "Sometimes I get out on the ice three times a week, other times it's once in six or seven months."

This is no fleeting love affair, mind you. Reeves credits his hockey upbringing in part for preparing him for the rigors and challenges of acting.

"Whether I'm performing on screen or on the ice, concentration, reaction and body language are basic tools," says Reeves. "The position of goalie is all about being 100 percent confident 100 percent of the time. There's no time to think. You go on instincts, anticipating and reacting, otherwise you'll be looking back at the puck in the net."

Being a movie star has its distinct advantages. Last summer, Reeves faced off against some of the legends of hockey in a celebrity game in Los Angeles. Manning the net for a team of fellow Tinseltowners, the stars took on former NHL luminaries and gave Reeves a chance to show off his rusty glove skills during a break from shooting his latest feature film, *The Devil's Advocate*, with Al Pacino.

Reeves was up for the challenge early, making some sweet skate saves and robbing former New York Islanders and L.A. Kings forward Butch Goring with a dazzling glove save. But the Kings' once-feared "Triple Crown Line" of Marcel Dionne, Dave Taylor and Charlie Simmer took over and riddled their silver-screen counterparts to help win the charity competition. Rusty crease work aside, Reeves enjoyed the chance to rekindle fond memories of bygone days spent flopping around with his buddies in Toronto.

"Hey, I made some good saves and will learn from my mistakes," says Reeves, spewing clichés like a true hockey veteran. "It was a great opportunity to play against pros." ■

PHOTOS BY ART FOXALL

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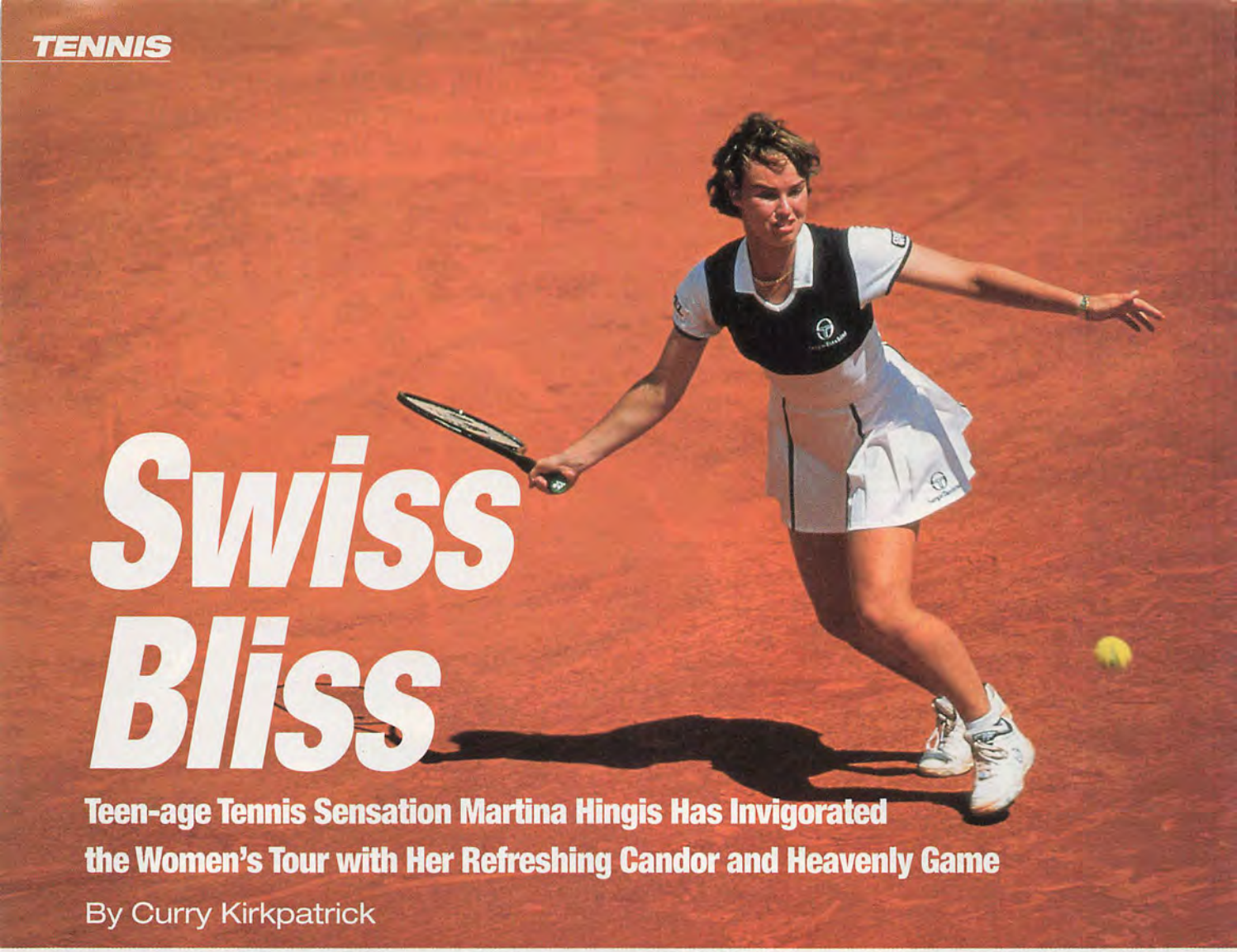


Swiss Bliss

Teen-age Tennis Sensation Martina Hingis Has Invigorated the Women's Tour with Her Refreshing Candor and Heavenly Game

By Curry Kirkpatrick

ALONG THE NARROW, SHADED LANE WHERE MARTINA Hingis lives in the magnificently quaint Swiss village of Trübbach, somewhere between Buchs and Bad Ragaz in the general vicinity of postcard paradise, the *siedenbaum* (silk trees) used to dominate the neighborhood. A couple of topspin lobs up the hill, in fact, the name of the street changes from Siedenbaum to Bugg. No explanation, no warning, no logic. No big whoop at all.

Sort of like Hingis' career. From Bad Ragaz to glad rags, Buchs to millions, Bugg to silk. From giggly, apple-cheeked pubescent phenom to a 1997 record of 59-2 with two Grand Slam championships leading into the U.S. Open, Hingis has given new meaning to the term "breakthrough season." As surely as her plain, home-girl road in the Rhine Valley opens to breathtaking vistas as it winds higher and higher into the foothills of the mighty Alps, Hingis has gently but firmly taken over the highest rung of women's tennis along the diamond and daisy chain carefully fashioned by the likes of Evert and Navratilova and Graf and Seles. And why not? She just turned 17.

Sort of like that street switch back in Trübbach. "Don't ask why [the change in name]," reprimands the guy on the bicycle peddling up the hill. "Here, everything is same but different. This is Switzerland."

Land of a thousand lakes, not to mention cheeses, Switzerland, above everything, has always been the most diverse of the nations of the New Europe. There are three official languages in Switzerland—French, German and Italian—not including something called "Romansh," which is a kind of goat latin used mainly in parts of the mountains. Then again, the spoken language of the nation is Swiss-German (*Schwizerdutsch*), but don't bother studying; it can't be written. Most speak and understand English when they are not pretending not to—like Hingis' coach and mom, Melanie Molitor. ("She understands everything—when I am around," laughs Molitor's daughter, who converses with her mother primarily in their native Czech.)

Only after coping with the vast differences in language, culture and traditions of Switzerland can one understand an only half-joking expression: "The Swiss don't really exist." Indeed, Molitor and Hingis immigrated to the Rhine Valley from Czechoslovakia after the first of her mother's two divorces, when little Martina was 7 years old. Hingis calls her adopted land "the golden cave" of Europe, but with her open personality, stark honesty and

IN FACT

Hingis' fastest serve ever recorded was 106 mph, tied for 18th on the current women's tour. The top three: 1) Brenda Schultz-McCarthy (123.0); 2) Venus Williams (119.0); 3) Jana Novotna (116.0).

Striking a familiar pose, the just-turned-17 Hingis is racking up the tournament wins. "She wins most matches before they start," says former player and current broadcaster Pam Shriver.

M. DEHOOG/TDP. OPPOSITE PAGE: RAY GIUBILO/SIPA PRESS; GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT.

unleashed bravado—"Tiger Woods? I was before Tiger Woods" is one of her totally brash and accurate mantras—she remains Czech through and through.

"This is what separates Martina and Melanie from the rest of us. Many Swiss have a problem with that, but it's what I love about them," says Mario Widmer, Switzerland's foremost football (our soccer) columnist who recently became sports editor of Zurich's *Blick*, the largest circulation newspaper in the country. Easy for him to say. Widmer, 56, is Molitor's new love. But conflict of interest? *Mais non. Nein.* Uh, no. As soon as the pens and pencils, tape recorders and cameras and massive media are finished following Hingis' matches, Widmer doesn't get an exclusive interview so much as a couple of exclusive hugs and pecks on his smitten face.

Not that *Blick* doesn't publish the hide off this refreshing new *Heidi*. Apart from all the paper's regular tennis reports, Heinz Mazenauer was hired specifically to cover another beat: Martina. Period. Post-Wimbledon stories concerned Army Minister Adolph Ogi calling Martina on the phone; Martina bailing the country out of its tourism doldrums; Martina engendering interest in lots of little Martinas; and Martina playing the Federation Cup in Zurich for practically *Trinkgeld*, or tips. But apparently that wasn't enough. While Widmer was away at Wimbledon, one of his superiors—the general editor of the Sunday *Blick*—didn't run Hingis' victory huge enough on the front page. He's no longer employed by *Blick*.

HINGIS' SENSATIONAL TENNIS game is a bewildering polyglot of past performers. She may have been named after legendary Czech Martina Navratilova, but in her baseline accuracy and eerie calm under stress, she is Chris Evert. While Hingis' backhand down the line, now among the most fearsome weapons in the game, hearkens back to another infant genius, Tracy Austin, her fluidity, blithe nature and all-court facility for space and angle—she loves to knock off volleys from midcourt—suggest more the flowing Evonne Goolagong. Most bizarre, however, is Hingis' parallel with the very first star-crossed tennis child, Maureen Connolly.

"Little Mo," a gifted, dominant baseliner a couple of generations before it was fashionable, won all nine of the major tournaments—consisting of Wimbledon, the Australian, French and U.S. championships—she contested. In 1953, she became the first female to complete the grand slam—at 17. But in 1954, her career was over, tragically cut short by a freak accident when the horse she was riding was hit by a truck.

Hingis has already experienced two horseback-riding mishaps—the first in the middle of the same Australian Open she made her first grand-slam championship, the second resulting in arthroscopic knee surgery that kept her off the court for seven weeks this past spring.

Truth is, her horses—"Montana" in Trübbach, "Sorrenta" back in her mother's hometown of Roznov in the Czech Republic—are less a hobby than a grand passion for tennis' youngest-ever No. 1 player. In her fondest dreams, she would love to be a show rider in the Olympics. "Well, not the Olympics," Hingis laughs. "Maybe only in the Grand Prix or the World Championships." Earlier this year she took fifth place among 15 riders in a local horse show in Roznov—"I made a wrong turn and skipped a jump; it was my fault, not the horse's," she says—and she is angling to buy still more horses for when she has time, presumably after her 20th or 30th grand-slam tournament victory.

Despite two mishaps, Hingis won't stop horsing around (above). "What could she be thinking?" asked fellow tour player Jana Novotna after Hingis' second tumble. Hingis and her mother (in blue jacket and frizzed hair) "are the most well-adjusted parent-daughter combo out here," says one observer, which is more than can be said about Hingis and her father (middle photo), with whom Martina has minimal contact.

TWO DAYS AFTER SHE WON Wimbledon last July, Hingis went riding at the famous Epson track in England during an all-day photo shoot for the snapper-to-the-stars, Annie Liebowitz. In one marathon session, Hingis even got to mount the same steed ridden by Richard Gere in the movie *First Knight*. A day later she was on "Montana," climbing the hills out behind the modest stable, which is out behind the modest tennis court, which is out behind her modest house (just about the smallest on the block) in Trübbach. A day after that, she was pricing those stallions at a horse farm near Bern. "*Stress und Ross-Suche statt Spazieren und Putzen*," headlined *Blick*. (Stress and Horse-Shopping Instead of Walk and House Cleaning.)

Hingis is so associated with horses in the Swiss mind that a recent newspaper story suggesting how she could help market the nation showed a tongue-in-cheek composite photo advertisement depicting her bundled up in heavy down against the snow-covered Alps while riding a horse through deep snow, Marlboro-man style. "Come to Martina's Country," the ad read in English.

When her mother's not monitoring, Hingis even rides without a helmet. "Nobody in the locker room could believe it when she fell off a horse the second time," says Jana Novotna, Hingis' 2-6, 6-3, 6-3 victim in the Wimbledon finals. "What could she be thinking?"

"Look, that's part of the challenge, the risk," says Hingis, in a sort of teen distaff version of an Evil Knievelian plaint. "When I fell, it was off a friend's horse I didn't know well. It was the last jump after a long day. The horse stopped suddenly before the jump when I wasn't expecting, and I was thrown. Pretty wild," she laughs. "But my own horses ... we know each other so well. My mother lets me do what I want. She says only that I should feel right when I go riding or jumping. If I don't feel fit or up to it, I don't jump. Anyway, what can my mother do to stop me?"

A good question for the WTA tour to contemplate as well. While Hingis' rise to No. 1 has been advantaged by terrific historical timing—the descendant, oft-injured Graf missed most of the season; the sad Seles isn't the same, pre-stabbing monarch; veterans such as Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, Conchita Martinez and Mary Pierce seem to be just cashing checks, while young peers like Anna Kournikova and Venus Williams have barely checked in—that's hardly the new champ's fault. Of the fact Hingis hasn't had to face Graf—since losing to her in five sets in the '96 season-ending WTA Championships in New York and then winning by default when Graf withdrew from the finals in a tournament in Tokyo in February—"you can only play who shows up," says Pam Shriver, the former player and current broadcaster.

"I hate to say this about us women, but even in the top 10 we're still a little scared to play No. 1," Shriver says. "Hingis got there so fast. Now she wins most matches before they start."

Only 5-foot-6, 115 pounds, Hingis is not among the bigger players. (Although, close up, she seems taller and stronger, her power is generated from upper legs whose solidity masquerades as mere baby fat.) But the mashers on the tour—Lindsay Davenport, Brenda Shultz-McCarthy, Novotna, et al.—are usually easy marks because she drumbeats their pace to her own rhythm, characteristically with full-bore drives from that backhand wing. Despite obvious weaknesses—her second serve and a sometimes vulnerable forehand—Hingis ultimately slices and dices, holds the ball on the racquet ("hides it," in tour parlance) for hours, invents shots out of nowhere and wins with anticipation, guile, variety and brains.

A rare Hingis defeat came against her best friend on the tour, Iva Majoli, at the French Open. But Hingis didn't seem to mind. "Every time I looked over at Iva, she was dying on the points. It meant so much to her."

The one time anybody's riddled her tennis IQ was in the finals of the French Open when Iva Majoli upset Hingis, 6-4, 6-2. To her credit, Majoli, an occasional headcase but exquisitely talented Croatian, served out of her gourd, kept Hingis running side-to-side, slugged winners and never let the favorite get comfortable. But Hingis, coming off a three-set marathon semifinal against Seles (which she still calls "my greatest win"), was visibly tired.

Moreover, Hingis didn't seem overly disappointed after the 19-year-old Majoli, her best friend on the tour, prevailed. "Sure, I had motivation, but it's easier to get up for Monica and Steffi," says Hingis. "Every time I looked over at Iva, she was dying on the points. It meant so much to her. Like, come on, I was not that unhappy that Iva won her first slam."

Evert says Hingis' hole card is her unpredictability. "She won't hit hard, then—bang!—she'll drive one into an opening from the base or maybe squeeze you with a touch drop-shot. She's supposed to not have a damaging serve, but look at the aces she hits on key points. If she gets complacent, she just gets mad at herself and starts slashing away and everything seems to go in. If she's losing, she lifts her level like no other player I can remember."

"Look, this kid is just smarter than everybody else," says Andrea Leand, another former player who now writes about the tour. "Williams and Kournikova might beat

CLIVE BRUNSKILL/ALLSPORT; ART SEITZ/GAMMA LIAISON; GARY M. PRIOR/ALLSPORT (2). OPPOSITE PAGE (CLOCKWISE FROM TOP): RON ANGLE/GAMMA LIAISON; RAY GIUBILO/SIPA PRESS; SALMON/SIPA PRESS; RAY GIUBILO/SIPA PRESS.

Child's Play

When Martina Hingis won at the Australian Open last January, she became the youngest player on the women's circuit in the Open Era (1968) to claim a grand-slam singles title.

Player	Grand Slam Won	Age
Martina Hingis	1997 Australian Open	16 yrs., 3 mos.
Monica Seles	1990 French Open	16 yrs., 6 mos.
Tracy Austin	1979 U.S. Open	16 yrs., 7 mos.
A. Sanchez Vicario	1989 French Open	17 yrs., 5 mos.
Steffi Graf	1987 French Open	17 yrs., 10 mos.

her in a race or in street smarts—Anna dates a 26-year-old hockey player [the Red Wings' Sergei Federov], for God's sake!—but on the court it's no contest yet."

Mary Jo Fernandez defines it as "weird that at her age Hingis knows so much about all the shots and strategies and nuances of the game. When I played doubles with her, I learned so much."

And Shriver adds: "I've never seen such a young girl value points the way Martina does. She's in such control. She's never out of a match. It's like she's thinking, 'If I do this and that and this, there's no reason I can't win every single point.' And she actually believes it."

As Nick Bollittieri, coaching guru and syntax-suffering quotologist, points out: "Hink-us? [After rumbling with Andre Agassi, Nicky B apparently still can't bring himself to do G's.] Hink-us has the eye of the tiger and the nose of the elephant."

Whatever that doesn't mean, Hingis is obviously a natural at the game. But Molitor gets equal credit for her daughter's instant development. "Melanie obviously knew how to motivate Martina and keep it fun," Leand says. "Out on tour she's a hard perfectionist, she does her homework and she can tell you more about the players than any coach. It's no accident Martina exploits opponents' weaknesses before they know what hit them. I also think they're the most well-adjusted parent-daughter combo out here."

Before she appeared out of nowhere with a prodigy under her wing and all that wildly frizzed hair on top—Carol Kane in a tornado—Molitor played professionally in Czechoslovakia for nine years, rising to as high as No. 10 in the country.

Molitor and Martina's father, Karol Hingis, now 46, an occasional tennis coach and groundskeeper in Kosice (now in Slovakia), divorced when Martina was 4. "I remember that he was very nice and that I liked him," says Hingis, who sees him only three or four times a year. "But if he were the right one for my mother and me, he'd still be with us."

"Martina's advisors ought to get her to watch her mouth right now, or all this adulation will turn around on her. Hey, I didn't even mind that when I told Hingis I was once ranked 3 in the world, she said 'You? No. 3?' like I was some Martian. But then she goes after Graf? ... Come on."

–Pam Shriver, former player and current broadcaster

In February, Karol presented his daughter with flowers at the airport in Kosice when Switzerland played the Slovaks in the Federation Cup matches. "He says he never got money from me, but he is a grown-up," Martina says. "He can work. Why should I give him money? Just because he made me? My father also says he'd like to train me. But this is so sad. He knows that can't happen. I have moved on. We cannot be together. My father would not know how to handle what it is like on the tour."

When Widmer entered the picture on intimate terms last year, it changed Molitor completely. "Mario is my good friend," Martina says. "My mother is happy again, looser, more fun, more easy to be with." (Contrast this contentment with the tragic condition of Seles' father/coach, who is dying of cancer, or with the bitter parental situations suffered by the likes of Graf, Pierce and the back-from-hell handmaiden, Jennifer Capriati.)

Not that Molitor has given up much control. Though she receives praise for her anti-tennis mom-rearing methods—"I have always done the normal things, skiing, biking, roller-blading, always with my mom, together," says Martina—woe to the media rep who crosses her. Molitor will blow off the Swiss beat reporters at a moment's notice. At the French Open she openly chastised a German journalist with "Go do your homework!" after the man was stupid enough to ask her how old Martina was. At a tournament in Hilton Head, S.C., Molitor personally ended a Hingis news conference, bellowing in Czech after which her stunned daughter quickly followed her away like a forlorn duckling.

"I don't know if it's Czech nature that Martina is so direct and will say whatever she feels, but it's certainly inherited from her mother's nature," says Daniel Fricker of *Blick*.

Supposedly, Mom was not disappointed when her baby daughter took a liking to the young American player, Justin Gimelstob—the more time Molitor had for herself to spend with Widmer. But Hingis' crush lasted about as long as it took Gimelstob to express his own desire to meet Alicia Silverstone. "I'm free now," Hingis says, laughing matter-of-factly, coyly fluttering her lashes at men three times her age. But given her own independent spirit, does Hingis really think the mother-daughter act will go on indefinitely, successfully? "Why not?" Hingis asks. "Somebody has to carry my rackets."

As the universe is constantly finding out, the girl doesn't lack for vast amounts of cheek. The Swiss (Can't) Miss has turned heads with her shocking soliloquies of self-confidence:

- "I'm not that surprised. I've beaten better players." (Upon winning her very first tour match in Zurich in 1994 over American Patty Fendick. She had just turned 14.)
- "I'll play mixed doubles next year, but I should give someone else a chance to win an event." (After winning both the singles and doubles at this year's Australian Open.)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: TOM DIPACE; JOHN KLEIN/SPORTSCHROME; MARK MOGLIA/ALLSPORT; CHRIS COLE/ALLSPORT. HEAD SHOT BY AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

At Paris, when asked if she knew officials had rearranged the scheduling so that she wouldn't have to play an early match, Hingis replied that of course she had requested it and why not if she was the No. 1 player?

Then came Wimbledon, during which Hingis told the beaten Sabine Applemans: "I've got to play two more matches. Sorry I had to make it short." Moreover, her dissing of the great Graf, as well as of peers Williams and Kournikova, was marvelous catfight stuff. Do you miss Steffi not being here? Hingis was asked as a setup for some expected praise of the defending champ. "I don't worry who's across the net," she said. Of Williams, Hingis said she was "disappointed" that Venus had lost in the first round. Then she virtually derided the wanna-be (and soon-will-be) Kournikova with: "Rivalry? With Anna? What rivalry? I always beat her and she doesn't have really a chance."

"Europeans are just more blunt. And I think it's a generation thing too. The girls now go ahead and say the same things that we were only thinking."

–Chris Evert, former player and current broadcaster

Hingis, rightfully, pleads truth as a defense. "Why shouldn't I say what I feel?" she asks. "The press here in Switzerland are my friends. Some of them seem like family. [Molitor has opened her homes to reporters both in Trübbach and Rosnov for both conferences and meals.] I have nothing to hide."

Moreover, Hingis seems vastly popular in the locker room. She is the first No. 1 in memory to fully enjoy the large-group camaraderie: "I can't imagine traveling around with these players and not talking and joking and having fun with all of them. We are a big family too," she says. (Says one low-ranked journeywoman player, "I can't remember or even imagine Steffi or Monica ever asking me an innocuous 'how are you feeling?' the way Martina does.")

Still, Hingis' stark phrasing has caused uneasiness and some bruised feelings.

"When Martina started her controversial, 'confidence' stuff, we all laughed nervously, wondering if she knew what she was saying," says Davenport. "At times I thought it was her age or inexperience or something got lost in the language change. But then, I don't know. She'll come out with something astounding and then just stare at you like, 'What did I say?' But then she'll have that glint in her eye."

The old pro, Shriver, again: "It's hard when you're so young to feel welcome on this tour. And I can't think of any No. 1, even Chris, who didn't have that 'bitch' label, at least for a while. But Martina's advisors ought to get her to watch her mouth right now, or all this adulation will turn around on her. Hey, I didn't even mind that when I told Hingis I was once ranked 3 in the world, she said, 'You? No. 3?' like I was some Martian. But then she goes after Graf? Steffi's been our greatest of champions. To dig on Steffi Graf? Come on."

Hold everything, says Evert. "You think Steffi ever showed Martina Navratilova and me any respect? Europeans are just more blunt," says Evert. "And I think it's a generation thing too. The girls now go ahead and say the same things that we were only thinking. Don't we want our sports celebrities brash and carefree and opinionated?"

When Evert sat down with Hingis at this year's French Open, the first thing the younger woman wanted to know was if Chris had pictures of her children. "I'll never forget this," Evert says. "Martina looked at my kids and said, 'This is what it's all about, isn't it?' Hey, she speaks four languages, plays tennis like a dream and knows the value of family? I'll always love Martina Hingis."

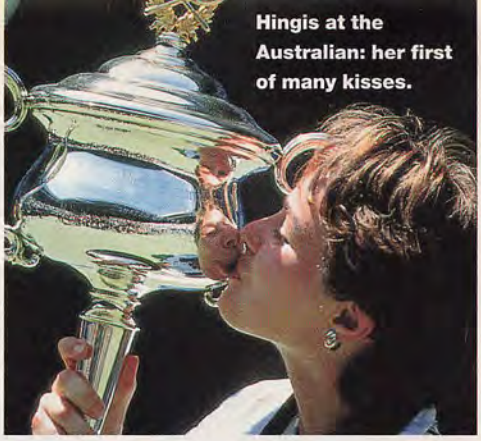
Birds of a feather? Well, there is that age difference. Following her Wimbledon victory, the women's champions were all gathered in the downstairs locker room for the traditional cake and champagne toast. Hingis offered Evert still more of the bubbly.

"I can't. I've got to do TV," said Evert.

"So what? I've got to play mixed doubles," said Hingis.

Then on her way out for some more tennis, Hingis strolled past the women's doubles champions, Natasha Zvereva and Gigi Fernandez. In one hand she clutched some cake, in the other more champagne. "Look at me," she howled. "I'm eating. I'm drinking. I'm fat. And I'm still winning. This must be a new generation."

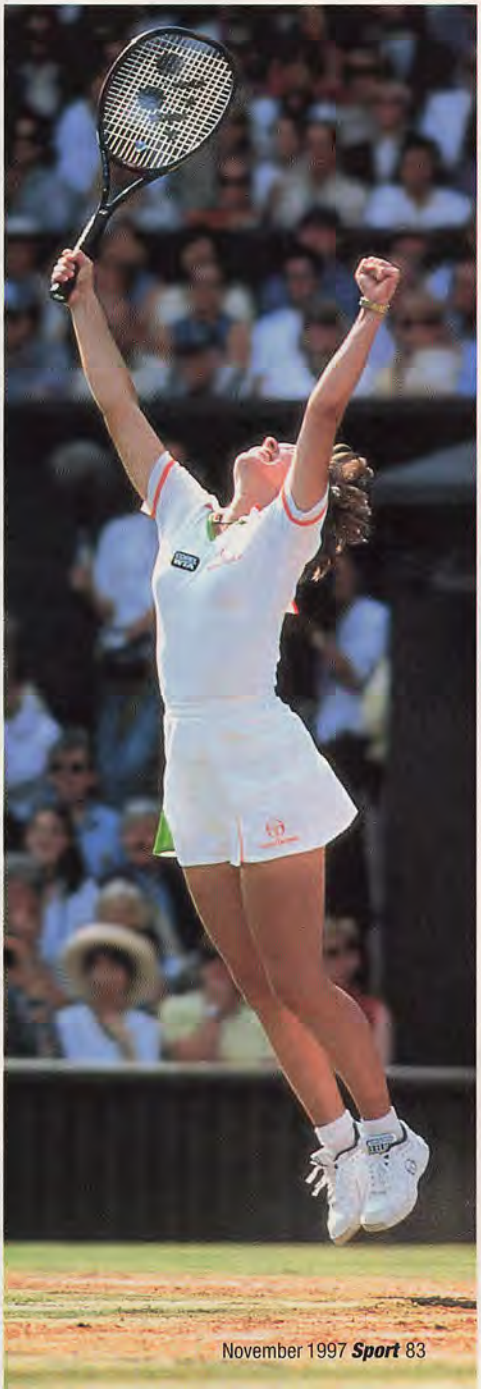
And how. And now, what women's tennis seems really to be all about. ■



Hingis at the Australian: her first of many kisses.

OVERTIME

For as much information on Hingis as you could possibly want, go to her Internet site: martina.webmrkt.com/mh-links.html



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OVERTIME

For the scoop on the high school hoops scene, we recommend:

- *Hoop Scoop*
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- *All-Star Sports*
  (704) 758-5827
- *Basketball Times'*
  "Trail Talk"
  (900) 420-7300

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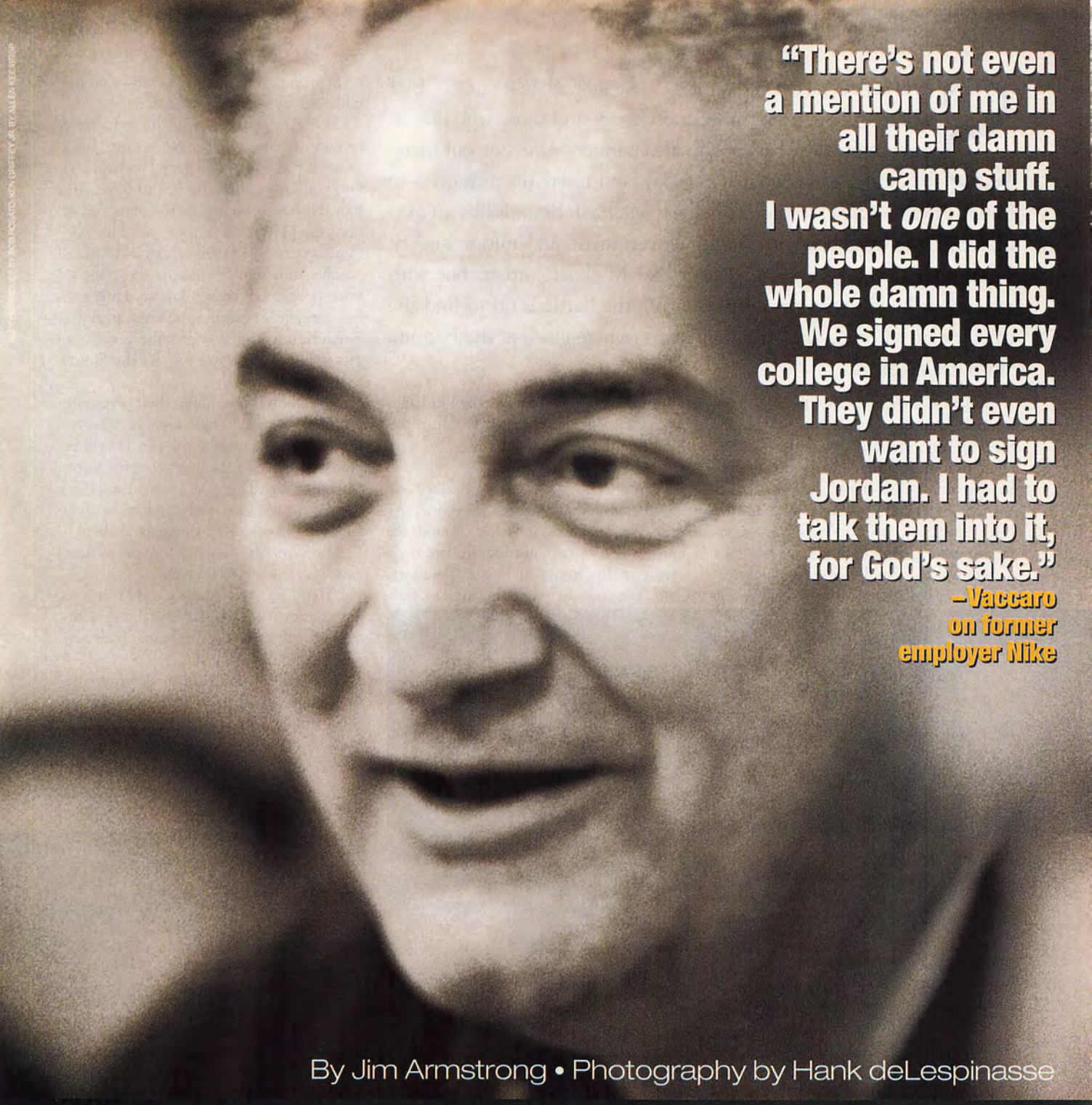


"There's not even a mention of me in all their damn camp stuff. I wasn't *one* of the people. I did the whole damn thing. We signed every college in America. They didn't even want to sign Jordan. I had to talk them into it, for God's sake."
–Vaccaro on former employer Nike

By Jim Armstrong • Photography by Hank deLespinasse

ee Stripes, You're In

Adidas' Sonny Vaccaro Fires the Latest Salvo in the Sneaker Wars He Helped Create

SONNY VACCARO CAN'T TOUCH THE RIM. NEVER COULD. BUT when it comes to his impact on hoops and those who play it, he shattered the backboard. He, as much as anyone out there, made the game what it is today, and today his mission is to find the next Michael Jordan.¶The next Michael? Sounds like an oxymoron, right up there with honest government and minor surgery. There will never be another player like Michael Jordan, but with retirement looming larger on his horizon, the battle is on to find the next Jordan the endorser. And it all starts (where else?) at the bottom. With the sneakers.

With apologies to the likes of Fila, Reebok and Converse, it's a two-horse race. In one stall, you have Nike, the champion thoroughbred with the Swoosh. In the other, you have Adidas' Sonny Vaccaro, the old war-horse and former Nike employee who 13 years ago convinced Nike chairman Phil Knight to take a chance on Jordan. Despite Adidas' limited resources, Vaccaro is the only guy who can make Nike wince.

Vaccaro's success story began in 1965 when he originated the Dapper Dan Roundball Classic in Pittsburgh, one of the first showcases for high school basketball talent to congregate and get noticed. It heated up in 1978, when he paid UNLV coach Jerry Tarkanian a mere $2,000 to have his players wear Nikes. And it culminated in 1984, when he met Jordan and talked him into signing with Nike instead of the company His Airness had planned to represent. In the irony of ironies, that company was Adidas.

"Whatever someone thinks of me, they've got to scratch their heads and say, 'This guy did some innovative things,' " says Vaccaro, Adidas' director of basketball promotions. "No matter what anyone does in the future, they're copying me. There are a lot of camps, but I did the first one. There are a lot of all-star games, but I did the first one. Everybody wants a shoe contract, but I did the first one."

And last summer, Vaccaro pulled off another first. He laid out a record $12 million for an unproven high school kid who bypassed college for the NBA. All in the quest for the next Michael.

SOON VACCARO WILL RUN HIS LAST camp and cut his last shoe deal. At 57, he plans to stick around for another year or two, just like Jordan, then retreat to his home in Pacific Palisades, Calif. But first, he's staging one last full-court press to find Jordan's successor on the billboards, if not the backboards.

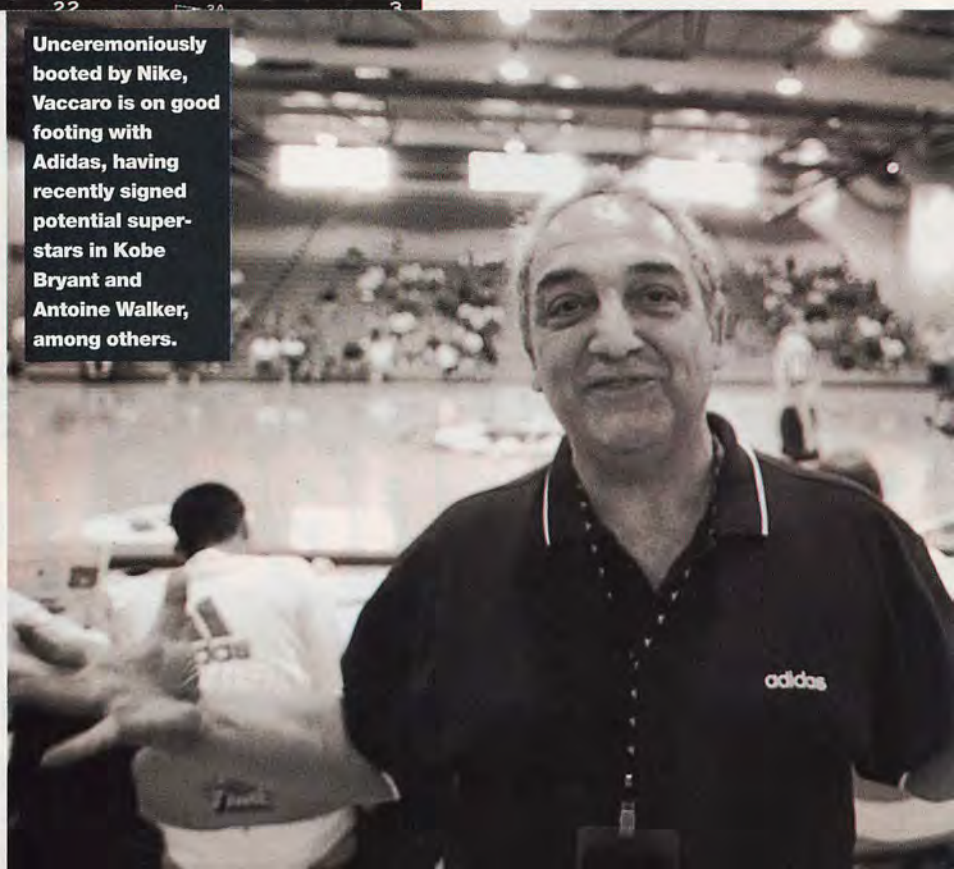
The Air Apparent will have to have certain qualities. First, he has to have game. If you don't have game, Sonny can't find you fame. Next, he has to have attitude. He has to want to be the man. Before signing a player, Vaccaro taps into his bottomless network of high school and college coaches in search of opinions. As often as not, though, he already knows. He's seen his man play at camps from coast to coast. Since he invariably knows the coach, he gets to know the player too. It's the Sonny System.

"I've got to know about their personality," says Vaccaro. "There are guys who are just going to be another player. They'll be pretty good, but the world won't know who they are. The guys I sign, I watched them grow up. I know them, I know their families—I know everything about them."

Vaccaro's also looking for rim rattlers, guys who put fans in the seats.

"You have to remember that this is entertainment," he says. "Everybody wants to see the flashers, the dunkers. That's why you need to have that star."

With the clock ticking down to his retirement and with rival Nike possessing considerably deeper pockets than Adidas, Vaccaro can't afford to wait to see how a player develops. But he hasn't forced the issue. Putting Adidas back on the map has taken time—four years of quietly, strategi-



Unceremoniously booted by Nike, Vaccaro is on good footing with Adidas, having recently signed potential superstars in Kobe Bryant and Antoine Walker, among others.

cally rebuilding its image in the minds of the kids on the playgrounds. Armed with a commitment from Adidas to create a better shoe and rebuild its franchise, Vaccaro jumped back into the sneaker ring with a resounding bang by signing five players—three of whom skipped college to enter the NBA draft directly from high school—in the past year: Kobe Bryant, Antoine Walker and Jermaine O'Neal, all rookies last season, and Tracy McGrady and Tim Thomas, both high draft choices last June. Tight-pursed Adidas came up with serious cash—a reported $12 million alone for McGrady. The message from Sonny was loud and clear: I'm back, baby.

The question, however, is will they pay off? That's the great unknown in the endorsement game. But when you're operating on a comparatively shoestring budget, you have to take chances.

"You have no idea," he says. "We're both going after players. The only difference with me is that I always have to show my hole card. If Nike guesses wrong, they've got 20 other guys they can fall back on. They have room for error. I don't have room for error."

Vaccaro has his sights set on four more players: Kansas forward Paul Pierce, one-time UNLV recruit Lamar Odom, and two high schoolers, senior Rashard Lewis of Alief, Texas, and junior DerMarr Johnson of Riverdale, Md.

For all we know, he already has found his man. His first Adidas signee was Bryant, who skipped college and wound up having a solid rookie season with the L.A. Lakers. Bryant has it all. He's exciting, he's a flasher and he loves to dunk. The signing of Bryant put Adidas back on the map in the U.S. after the company had spent years devoting its resources to international markets. In Bryant, Vaccaro snagged not only one of the NBA's rising stars, but a guy who's handsome, articulate and, above all else, he plays in L.A., the second-largest media market in the country.

JAY CRIHFIELD/SPURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY; JED JACOBSOHN/ALLSPORT

Vaccaro's other signing coup last year was Walker, a high-profile player from a high-profile college, Kentucky, who landed in the high-profile city of Boston. Had Walker ended up in, say, Sacramento or Indiana, Vaccaro would have lost on his gamble. Instead, he suddenly had a marketing presence on the Celtics, the most storied team in the game's history.

"I made a major bet with those two," says Vaccaro. "I had to have them. If I would have failed with Kobe and Antoine, we wouldn't have had the resources to do these other deals." Those resources led directly to the signing of high school star McGrady, whose meteoric rise to prominence shocked even Vaccaro.

"The Tracy McGrady thing was amazing," says Vaccaro. "The kid comes from the backwoods of Florida and blows everybody away. No one knew his name last year. Twelve months later, he's a multimillionaire. We create that. That's what this is all about. It's a star system. Some people are just starting to figure it out."

VACCARO HAS BEEN PLAYING THE endorsement game since the late '70s, when he was hired by Nike to deliver several big-name college coaches. Today, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski makes $1 million-plus from his shoe contract, and Georgetown's John Thompson sits on the company's board of directors.

Vaccaro? After taking Nike to the top of the charts, he was unceremoniously dumped by Knight in 1991, leaving him with no small amount of animosity toward the giant he helped create.

"There's not even a mention of me in all their damn camp stuff," says Vaccaro. "I wasn't *one* of the people. I did the whole damn thing. We signed every college in America. They didn't even want to sign Jordan. I had to talk them into it, for God's sake."

Vaccaro's departure from Nike has heated up the sneakers holy war to new heights. He admits it's become personal, that he already would be retired had he not been shown the door by Knight. He's too old for all this, but at the same time he's been re-energized since joining Adidas in 1993. Maybe that's because he's so happy to be back to his grass-roots origins. Hanging out in gyms in his vintage three-piece suit—golf shirt, shorts and sneakers—talking to coaches, mingling with players, exceeding his unlimited budget every day ... it's like the old days, before Nike was Nike. But Vaccaro knows beating Big Brother is nearly impossible.

"As long as I have my niche, I can make it aggravating and I can make my company succeed," says Vaccaro. "The thing I want to do for Adidas is get them in the playing field. I want to get them two or three more players so they can take it to another level, then I'm gone. By the year 2000, I'll be sipping wine with my wife and watching these kids play whenever I can."

And when he walks?

"If I get out, in all sincerity, it's a one-team race," he says. "The other people will envelop the world. The corporations will run it, and Nike will be the biggest one out there. When I get out, there will be maybe two or three kids a year who get these kinds of deals ever again. Why? Because there won't be any competition.

"Basketball is like every other business. The more competition there is, the better off everyone else is." ■

FOUR FOR THE SHOW

The Stripes or the Swoosh? Here's a sneak peek at four Sonny admirees whose shoes will make news.

PAUL PIERCE, KANSAS
6-7 JUNIOR FORWARD
'96-97 STATS: 16 PTS, 7 RBS
A slasher and dasher who can run the court, finish and drain big shots. Needs a more consistent outside game to truly make it big.

LAMAR ODOM
6-9 FORWARD, '97 HIGH SCHOOL GRAD
'96-97 STATS: 25 PTS, 17 RBS, 12 ASTS
Arguably the nation's top prep prospect last spring, Odom was penciled in at UNLV, but questions regarding his college entrance scores spooked him into spending the year in limbo prior to declaring for the next NBA draft.

RASHARD LEWIS, ALIEF ELSIK (TEXAS) HIGH
6-10 senior forward
'96-97 STATS: 20 PTS, 13 RBS
A force in the lane, he can run the court and has exceptional touch around the rim.

DERMARR JOHNSON, NEWPORT SCHOOL (MD.) HIGH
6-9 JUNIOR FORWARD
'96-97 STATS: 16 PTS, 9 RBS
He can do it all—run, shoot, pass, rebound.

Left: Paul Pierce
Right: Lamar Odom

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1. No purchase is required to enter or win. Correct answers to the questions about Monday night football or Ford products are not required in order to be included in the drawing and to win. Each valid entry received has an equal chance to win. The odds of winning are determined by the total number of eligible entries received.
2. To enter: a)Correctly complete an official entry form and mail according to the directions in these rules and on the entry form. b)You may also enter the sweepstakes by hand printing your name, address and ZIP code along with the words, "Ford Division Presents ABC Monday Night "Get Into The Game" Sweepstakes," on a 5 1/2" x 3 1/2" postcard. Please address this postcard by hand printing the address mentioned in the next paragraph onto the front of the postcard. c)Where this sweepstakes is promoted at a show or other event, you may also enter directly at that location.
3. Only one entry is allowed per person. Mail your entry via first-class mail, to: Ford Division Presents ABC Monday Night "Get Into The Game" Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 12298, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0998.
4. By entering sweepstakes each entrant agrees to abide by the rules of the sweepstakes. Disqualification will result if any of the regulations/instructions mentioned in these rules or on the entry form are not followed. Any entries that have been photocopied or similarly reproduced are not eligible.
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8. All winners will be selected in a random drawing conducted on or about December 22, 1997, from among all eligible entries received. Limit one prize per family or household. The administrative supervision of this promotion, including the random drawing is being administered by an independent judging consultant whose decisions are final.
9. Potential winners will be notified by mail. Potential winners must follow the directions contained in any required Affidavit of Eligibility, prize acceptance form, skill-testing notification, or any correspondence attached therewith and return all forms, correctly filled out, so that the forms are received at the designated address within 10 days of the date on the correspondence. Noncompliance within this time period may result in disqualification and in the selection of an alternate winner. Each potential winner is responsible for ensuring that any of the previously mentioned forms are actually received at the designated address within the above-mentioned 10 days. Any prize, affidavit, prize notification or other correspondence that is returned as undeliverable may result in disqualification and in the selection of an alternate winner.
10. In order to be awarded a prize, residents of Canada will be required to correctly answer a time-limited arithmetical skill-testing question. In the event the skill-testing question is not correctly answered (within the time limit) disqualification will occur and an alternate winner will be selected.
11. The prizes are as follows: A)Grand prize: A 1998 Ford Ranger XLT SuperCab 4x4 pick-up truck. There is one Ranger to be won, with an approximate value of $20,590.00. B)First prize: A 2-day trip for two people to the 32nd Annual NFL Championship Game in San Diego, California. The trip will include: a)Round-trip airfare for two (coach) from a major gateway city (in the continental U.S. or Canada) to San Diego, California. Outbound flight must take place on January 24, 1998 and return flight on January 26, 1998. b)Hotel accommodations for two (double occupancy) for 2 nights. Accommodations to be chosen by Petersen Publishing company, L.L.C. c)Cash of $1,000 to cover all other expenses for the trip. d)Any additional expenses, not mentioned above, and not covered by the $1,000 cash will be at the winner's/guest's expense. If for any reason the winner cannot take the vacation on the above-mentioned dates, he/she forfeits all rights to the first prize and an alternate winner will be selected. If, for any reason, while on the first-prize trip the first-prize winner/guest is/are not able to complete any or all portion(s) of the planned activities, the winner/guest forfeit(s) all rights to that portion of the activities that were not completed. There is only one first prize. The approximate value of the first prize is $5,000.00. The value of the first prize may vary depending on the location of the winner/guest and airfares/rates at the time of departure. C)Second prize: An NFL Sports Specialties Hat. There are twenty hats to be won. The approximate value of each hat is $40.00.
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14. The first-prize winner releases Ford Motor Company, Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C. and their affiliates, officers, agents, employees and promotional consultants from any responsibility or liability in connection with any loss, accident or death incurred during the stay in San Diego, California, or in transit to or from San Diego. The first-prize winner and his/her travel guest must both sign a waiver of any and all claims for injuries, damages or death resulting from participation in the trip to the NFL Championship Game in San Diego. The grand and second-prize winners release Ford Motor Company, Petersen Publishing Company, L.L.C. and their affiliates, officers, agents, employees and promotional consultants from any responsibility or liability in connection with any loss, accident or death incurred in connection with the use of any prize won in this sweepstakes.
15. Each winner may be required to grant permission (without additional compensation) for the use of his/her name, signature, photographs, likenesses and voice in advertising and promotional materials (except where prohibited by law).
16. The name, city and state of residence of each winner will appear in a printed list, which will be mailed upon request. This list will be available approximately 1/19/98. For a copy of this winners' list, send a self-addressed, stamped (#10 size) envelope (unstamped for Canada) to: Ford Division Presents ABC Monday Night "Get Into The Game" Sweepstakes Winners' List, P.O. Box 12298, La Crescenta, CA 91224-0998

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1. What was the final score of each of the games listed in the game schedule box below?
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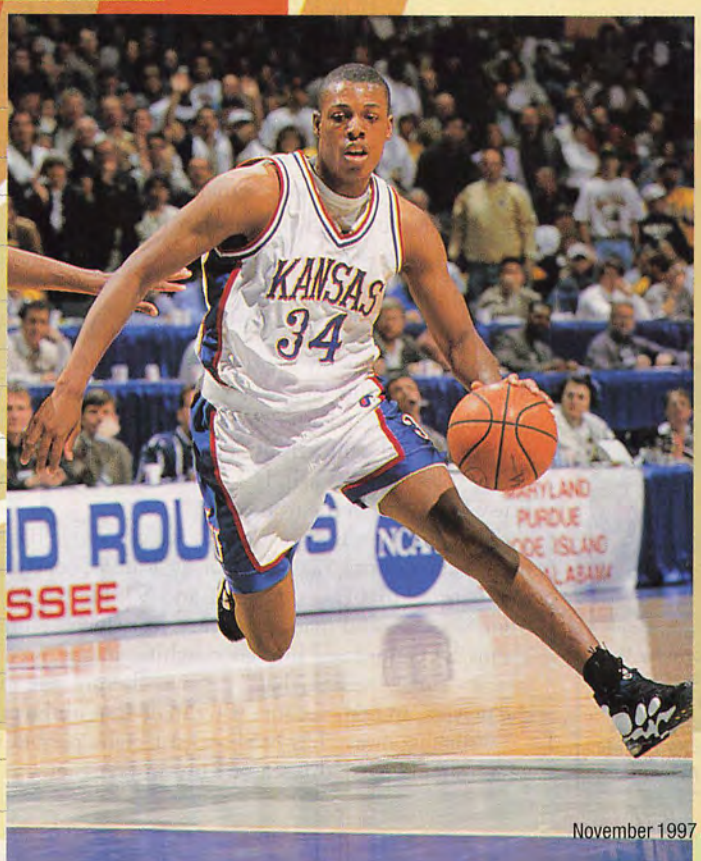
By Dick "Hoops" Weiss

Sport Guide to... Hoops Madness

College Basketball Preview '97-98



Top 25, Postseason Brackets, All-America Teams, NBA Lottery Projections, TV Listings ...

JAY CRIHFIELD/SPURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY; BRIAN SPURLOCK

All-Class of 1998
Seniors who passed up millions just so they could say they made this team
C Keon Clark UNLV
F Raef LaFrentz Kansas
F Brian Skinner Baylor
G Cory Carr Texas Tech
G Miles Simon Arizona

All-Class of 1999
Juniors who will have to choose between making millions and making SPORT's all-senior team next year
C Robert Traylor Michigan
F Antawn Jamison N. Carolina
F Vince Carter N. Carolina
G Paul Pierce Kansas
G Trajan Langdon Duke

All-Class of 2000
Sophomores who may be raw but have serious skills
C Loren Woods Wake Forest
F Corey Benjamin Oregon St.
F Richard Hamilton UConn
G Ed Cota North Carolina
G Mike Bibby Arizona

All-Class of 2001
No Tracy McGradys, but these teens will be ruling the NBA alongside him in the not-so-distant future
C Chris Burgess Duke
F Ricky Davis Iowa
F Larry Hughes St. Louis
G Baron Davis UCLA
G Luke Recker Indiana

FAN FACT

Not to be outdone by the UCLA football team, which has won six in a row vs. rival USC, UCLA hoops has won five of six from chief foe Arizona.

1. Kansas

CONVENTIONAL WISDOM SUGGESTS that Arizona, which returns all five starters, should repeat. The trendy pick, no doubt, will be Duke, with its deep roster, quality backcourt and top-ranked recruiting class. We at SPORT like Kansas ... which the Jayhawks might not want to hear. You see, we also (unsuccessfully) picked them last year, and the year before. But we think the third time will be a charm.

We like LaFrentz and Kansas to win it all—but then again we usually do.

Kansas has plenty of reason for optimism despite the loss of three starters—including center Scot Pollard and lead guard Jacque Vaughn, both NBA first-round picks—from a 34-2 team that reached the NCAA Sweet 16 before getting upset by upstart Arizona. Jayhawks coach Roy Williams is still haunted by that loss. "It was like someone reaching in, pulling your heart out and shaking it in front of you," he says.

But Williams again has found a reason to believe in the heartland. The outlook for Kansas basketball changed radically last spring when 6-foot-11 consensus All-America forward Raef LaFrentz and 6-7 junior swingman Paul Pierce each turned down NBA lottery-pick money to stay in school. The two showed a flair for the dramatic by announcing their decisions at a barnstorming game between Kansas seniors and a group of alums at Allen Fieldhouse. Five minutes into the game, the public-address announcer informed the crowd: "Paul Pierce has this message for all KU fans: 'I am staying.' " Before the words could tumble out of his mouth, there was a thunderous explosion of applause, and Pierce, seated in the stands, stood up and flashed the No. 1 sign. Then the next bomb: "I have an announcement from Raef LaFrentz: 'I am staying.' " The crowd let out another roar. Williams, who has never had one of his players leave early for the pros, no doubt let out a sigh of relief.

LaFrentz (18.5 points, 9.3 rebounds) and Pierce (16.3 points, 6.8 rebounds) are arguably the two best players in college basketball and should provide the Jayhawks with a strong nucleus on a team that only figures to get better once Williams can plug 6-5 junior Ryan Robertson and senior Billy Thomas into the point full time and define roles for T.J. Pugh, LSU transfer Lester Earl and 7-0 freshman Eric Chenowith in the frontcourt.

That Williams is a great coach is a given. He has won 81 percent of his games during his nine years at Kansas, coaching the Jayhawks to a pair of Final Fours, in 1991 and '93. He has received overtures from NBA general managers every year since he arrived at KU but claims he cannot see himself coaching in the pros. "I'm a college coach—I truly believe that," he says. "I enjoy the relationship with the players, and I'm not sure you can do that in the pros."

Williams always has used at least eight players in his rotation, which should make this season's transition easier.

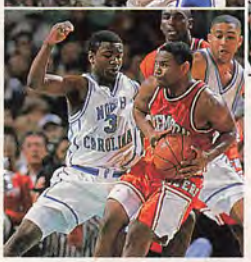
All five starters return for defending champion Arizona.

2. Arizona

RETURNING STARTERS: 5.

GOOD NEWS: The Wildcats, who beat three No. 1 seeds—Kansas, North Carolina and Kentucky—en route to their first national championship, have the best perimeter talent in the country with preseason All-America guards Mike Bibby and Miles Simon and forward Michael Dickerson. BAD NEWS: Repeating

BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; SCOTT WACHTER; BOB ROSATO



Clockwise from top left: South Carolina's Melvin Watson, UCLA's Toby Bailey, Kentucky's Wayne Turner, Purdue's Brad Miller, Clemson's Terrell McIntyre and Duke's Trajan Langdon.

TOP-CLOCKWISE: BRUCE I. SCHWARTZMAN (2); JOHN GRIESHOP FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS (2); BRUCE I. SCHWARTZMAN; DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; BOTTOM: BRIAN SPURLOCK.

is always hard. Remember, AU finished fifth in the Pac-10 regular season, and the re-emergence of the five-second call off the dribble could affect the guards' ability to effectively dribble-penetrate.

3. North Carolina

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: Dean Smith, who broke Adolph Rupp's record for career victories, did one of his best coaching jobs last year, transforming the young Heels into a Final Four team. The decision to remain in school by 6-9 junior Antawn Jamison, a two-time All-ACC choice, gives Carolina a force inside. Sophomore Ed Cota, the best lead guard to play here since Kenny Smith, should help Vince Carter achieve stardom. BAD NEWS: The Heels will miss 7-3 center Serge Zwikker more than they know. If streaky guard Shammond Williams and redshirt freshman Michael Brooker aren't making shots, Carolina could self-destruct from the perimeter.

4. Duke

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: Coach Mike Krzyzewski, who won the ACC regular season by mixing and matching talent and shooting threes, has Duke-type talent for the first time since 1992. Spunky senior Steve Wojciechowski and Trajan Langdon form a quality backcourt, and Coach K can choose among eight blue-chippers to fill the other three spots. Center Chris Burgess and power forward Elton Brand, cornerstones of the best recruiting class in the country, should make the Blue Devils physically tougher. BAD NEWS: Senior forward Ricky Price, a top-five ACC talent, will miss the first semester because of academics.

5. UCLA

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.

GOOD NEWS: The Bruins, who beat Arizona twice, have talent. Guard Toby Bailey and forward J.R. Henderson, seniors who played for the 1995 national-title team, should be NBA first-round picks. Junior center Jelani McCoy is a shot-blocking force. UCLA can run with anybody, and its ability to pass and rebound off the offensive glass contributed to a 52-percent shooting clip. Coach Steve Lavin showed he could recruit, signing lead guard Baron Davis and swing Schea Cotton, two of the top three recruits on the Coast. BAD NEWS: Davis is a talent but will have to make the transition to running the Bruins' high-powered but mistake-prone offense, which averaged close to 18 turnovers. Talented Henderson must stay out of Lavin's doghouse.

6. South Carolina

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: The Gamecocks, who beat Kentucky twice last season, have the best backcourt in the SEC. Senior Melvin Watson and junior BJ McKie have excellent one-on-one penetration skills, making them almost impossible to guard in Eddie Fogler's spread offense. BAD NEWS: Fogler has run a guard-oriented offense since he was at Vanderbilt. Forwards Ryan Stack and William Gallman are improved but still not Final Four material.

Sport All-America

First Team	Second Team	Third Team
C Keon Clark, UNLV	C Robert Traylor, Michigan	C Michael Doleac, Utah
F Raef LaFrentz, Kansas	F Vince Carter, North Carolina	F Brian Skinner, Baylor
F Antawn Jamison, North Carolina	F Kenny Thomas, New Mexico	F Matt Harpring, Georgia Tech
G Mike Bibby, Arizona	G Cory Carr, Texas Tech	G Toby Bailey, UCLA
G Paul Pierce, Kansas	G Miles Simon, Arizona	G BJ McKie, South Carolina

All-Import

Standouts who came from other countries

C Alexander Koul
George Washington (Belarus)
F Hanno Mottola
Utah (Finland)
F Yegor Mescheriakov
George Washington (Belarus)
G Juan "Pepe" Sanchez
Temple (Argentina)
G J.J. Brade
George Washington (Canada)

All-Witness Relocation

Impact transfers you may have forgotten about

C omm'A Givens
Pepperdine (from UCLA)
F Tremaine Fowlkes
Fresno State (from Cal)
F Winfred Walton
Fresno State (from Syracuse)
G Jason Williams
Florida (from Marshall)
G Cameron Murray
Louisville (from USC)

All-Buried Treasure

Hidden gems tucked away in small pockets of this big nation

C Jermone James
Florida A&M
F Danny Moore
Southwest Missouri
F William "Bud" Eley
Southeast Missouri
G Bonzi Wells
Ball St.
G Rashid Bey
St. Joseph's

FAN FACT

How good are Duke's new recruits? Michigan's famed Fab 5 included two *Parade* first-team All-Americans and two seconds. Duke has three first-teamers and a third.

All-Matchbook

Players who need to light a fire under their butts or risk losing NBA scouts' interest

C Corey Louis
Florida State
F Jerod Ward
Michigan
F Andrae Patterson
Indiana
G Ricky Price
Duke
G Felipe Lopez
St. John's

All-Beef

Standouts with bulk

Brad Millard
St. Mary's (7-2, 345)
Robert Traylor
Michigan (6-8, 300)
Lari Ketner
UMass (6-10, 270)
Alexander Koul
George Washington (7-1, 296)
Galen Robinson
Houston (6-8, 265)

All-Summer Fever

Underclassmen who figure to make themselves eligible for the '98 draft

C Robert Traylor
Michigan
F Jelani McCoy
UCLA
F Vince Carter
North Carolina
G Paul Pierce
Kansas
G Mike Bibby
Arizona

FAN FACT

If you can't beat 'em, join 'em: Coached by Tubby Smith, Georgia suffered its three most lopsided losses last year (21, 25, 27) to Kentucky, Tubby's new employer.

7. Kentucky

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.

GOOD NEWS: Although the Wildcats do not have a true franchise player, new coach Tubby Smith, successful at both Tulsa and Georgia, inherits a quality starting five, with Wayne Turner stepping in full time in place of Anthony Epps at the point and 6-3 redshirt senior guard Jeff Sheppard, a starter on UK's 1996 national-championship team, filling the void left by Ron Mercer. BAD NEWS: Only two players—Turner and Sheppard—can create their own shots. Center could be a problem spot if 6-10 junior Nazr Mohammed has to play the position alone.

8. Purdue

RETURNING STARTERS: 5.

GOOD NEWS: Gene Keady's young Boilermakers won 12 games in the Big Ten, which is as much a testimony to the coach as anything else. Keady's three best players—6-11 senior center Brad Miller, sophomore forward Brian Cardinal and senior guard Chad Austin—all gained additional experience over the summer by making the U.S. 22-and-under team. BAD NEWS: Miller and Cardinal have a history of foul problems, and the frontcourt only outrebounded opponents by a 0.1 margin in the regular season.

9. Clemson

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: The Tigers have as much upperclass depth as Duke, allowing Rick Barnes to freely rotate players and employ a suffocating defense that wears opponents down. Point guard Terrell McIntyre (5-9) is the best little man to play in the ACC since Muggsy Bogues, and the front line is filled with bruising wide bodies like Mohamed Woni, Harold Jamison, Tom Wideman, Iker Iturbe and Andrius Jurkunas. BAD NEWS: The offense, which ranked last in the ACC in three-point shooting and next-to-last in field-goal percentage, had a tendency to bog down at critical times. Barnes must hope sophomore Vincent Whitt and streaky Temple transfer Johnny Miller can help McIntyre bust zones.

10. Fresno State

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.

GOOD NEWS: It hasn't taken Jerry Tarkanian long to assemble top-10 talent. Lead guard Rafer Alston transferred in from Fresno City. Forward Winfred Walton has resurfaced from Syracuse. Forward Tremaine Fowlkes arrives from Cal. All have pro tools. Avondre Jones, the much-traveled former McDonald's All-American from Southern Cal, should give the Bulldogs a presence in the middle. BAD NEWS: It's tough to say how quickly the new faces will blend with vets like Chris Herren and Terrance Roberson and whether this team will have the same work ethic as Tark's old Vegas teams.

11. Iowa

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: The Hawkeyes, who overachieved with role players last season, should dramatically improve the frontcourt with the return of All-Big Ten forward Jess Settles, who missed all but three games last year with hand, hip and back injuries, and the addition of 6-6 freshman Ricky Davis, the best player in the Magic Johnson Roundball Classic. BAD NEWS: Freshman lead guard Dean Oliver has big shoes to fill trying to replace Andre Woolridge, who often kick-started Tom Davis' up-tempo offense and single-handedly tortured Kentucky during a second-round NCAA loss.

12. Michigan

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.

GOOD NEWS: The talent level may be down from the Fab Five era, but there are still future pros in this lineup. Robert Traylor, the 6-8, 300-pound behemoth who bailed out of the NBA draft at the 11th hour, is a unique offensive weapon, and guard Louis Bullock may be the second-best deep shooter in the Big Ten behind Kent McCausland of Iowa. BAD NEWS: Banished to the NIT last year, Michigan continues to be haunted by allegations that booster Ed Martin paid former players Chris Webber and Maurice Taylor big bucks and that the program was spiraling out of control.

Clockwise from left: Michigan's Robert Traylor, who bailed out of the NBA draft at the last minute; Fresno State's Chris Herren, whose Tarkanian-led Bulldogs have top-10 talent; UNC-Charlotte's DeMarco Johnson, who along with Sean Colson give the 49ers the two best players in Conference USA; New Mexico's hard-to-guard Kenny Thomas; and Stanford's 7-1 center Tim Young, who leads an awesome Cardinal front line.

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: TIM PORCO/SPURLOCK PHOTOGRAPHY; BOB ROSATO (2); MARC PISCOTTY FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN; BOB ROSATO

13. Stanford

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: The Cardinal, which reached the Sweet 16 with four sophomores in the starting lineup, has the deepest front line in the Pac-10, with 7-1 Tim Young, Mark Madsen, Pete Sauer and twin recruits Jason and Jarron Collins. BAD NEWS: Arthur Lee got plenty of experience last season when Mike Montgomery went to a three-guard offense en route to a Sweet 16 appearance. But replacing All-American Brevin Knight, who ran the pick-'n'-roll better than any point guard in the country, will be tough.

14. New Mexico

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.

GOOD NEWS: Kenny Thomas, a 6-9, 255-pound junior, has replaced Keith Van Horn as the most difficult player to guard in the WAC. The Lobos have the most quickness in the conference. BAD NEWS: Thomas does not always get enough touches to be effective. New Mexico was 18-0 in the Pit but struggled on the road in league play, losing by 21 at TCU, 23 at Tulsa and 20 at Utah.

15. UNC-Charlotte

RETURNING STARTERS: 2.

GOOD NEWS: Lead guard Sean Colson wanted to go to Cincinnati, but the Bearcats passed, and the 49ers got a gift. Colson led Conference USA with 6.3 assists and should combine with forward DeMarco Johnson (18.8 ppg, 8.5 rpg) to give UNCC

Jess Settles returns from injury to lead Iowa; Texas' Penders enjoyed a recruiting bonanza.

Hoops Viewing Guide

Monday

ESPN runs Big Monday–a Big East, Big 12, WAC tripleheader

Our advice to East Coast junkies? Take No Doz and tune in at midnight to watch the wacky Western Athletic Conference. It beats watching a trip to the foul line in the Big East that generally eats into the start of the Big 12 games. With the Pac-10 ostracized to Prime most of the time, this is your best chance to check out quality West Coast hoops during the week.

UConn should be the Big East favorite, but keep an eye on St. John's, which may be an established lead guard away from finally resurrecting college hoops in New York. The Big 12 has never gotten the credit it deserves because many of its marquee schools aren't located in major media markets. But Kansas is a national program, and we've always been suckers for a Roy Williams-coached team, especially when it has to play in a pit like Kansas State or Missouri.

Tuesday

ESPN runs Super Tuesday–a Big Ten, SEC doubleheader

New Kentucky coach Tubby Smith has done an outstanding job at both Tulsa and Georgia, but Kentucky is a completely different animal. The fans in the Blue Grass expect to go to the Final Four every year and remember that last loss until the start of the next season.

The SEC used to be strictly a football conference, but in the last four years, the Wildcats and Arkansas have won national titles, and both Florida and Mississippi State have appeared in the Final Four.

The NCAA selection committee insists on inviting too many Big Ten teams that are routinely eliminated in the first round of the NCAA tournament. But the conference appears to be making a comeback, prompted in large part by the emergence of Minnesota as a Final Four team, Purdue as the best team in Indiana and the hiring of coaches like Lon Kruger at Illinois, Tom Izzo at Michigan State and Dick Bennett at Wisconsin.

Wednesday

ESPN runs two games, choosing between the ACC, Atlantic 10 and Big East

There's nothing like the atmosphere of a Duke-Carolina game played in cozy Cameron Arena. Dean Smith is a Hall of Fame coach, Mike Krzyzewski is a future Hall of Fame coach, and there are usually at least six future NBA players on the floor. Sometimes you get lucky and ESPN carries an ACC doubleheader. We're salivating. Let's play three.

This may be one year you want to focus less on the Big East and more on the Atlantic 10, traditionally a second-class citizen in the East. At least six Atlantic 10 teams—Xavier, Rhode Island, George Washington, Temple, UMass and St. Joseph's—have NCAA hopes.

Continued

All-Einstein

Underclassmen who made the smart decision of not applying for the NBA draft

C Zendon Hamilton
St. John's
F Ruben Patterson
Cincinnati
F J.R. Henderson
UCLA
G Toby Bailey
UCLA
G Charles Jones
LIU

All-Practice Squad

Redshirts who won't be seeing action this year

F Charles Thomas
E. Kentucky (from Minnesota)
F Damion Walker
New Mexico (from TCU)
G Scoonie Penn
Ohio State (from BC)
G Anton Reese
Georgia State (from Alabama)
G Gary Saunders
Seton Hall (from Georgia Tech)

All-Dynamite

Players who may explode this year because their coaches will depend on them more

C Loren Woods
Wake Forest
F Laron Profit
Maryland
F Kris Clack
Texas
G Jeff Sheppard
Kentucky
G Andre Miller
Utah

FAN FACT

Call it unconditional love: Though Portland has been to the Big Dance just twice (1959, '96), fanatics like this continue to support their Pilots.

CRAIG JONES/ALLSPORT; JONATHAN DANIEL/ALLSPORT; BOB ROSATO

All-Upside

If their improvement last year was any indication, watch out for these guys this season

C Michael Doleac
Utah
F DeMarco Johnson
UNC-Charlotte
F Ansu Sesay
Ole Miss
G Tyronn Lue
Nebraska
G Vonteego Cummings
Pittsburgh

All-Second Gear

Prep All-Americans who have yet to make the transition to the college game

C Avondre Jones
Fresno State
F Willie Mitchell
South Alabama
G Taymon Domzalski
Duke
G Ramel Lloyd
Long Beach State
G Willie Dersch
Virginia

All-Ann Meyers

Women who could play ball with the big boys

C Alisha Burras
Louisiana Tech
F Chamique Holdsclaw
Tennessee
F Nykesha Sales
UConn
G Tracy Reid
North Carolina
G Cindy Blodgett
Maine

FAN FACT

Fans of Syracuse and other Big East teams will long for the good-old days: Only one team from that conference (UConn) cracks our Top 25.

From left, Gary Lumpkin leads athletic Xavier; the Rams' Tyson Wheeler will fill it for new coach Harrick; Michael Doleac mans the Utes' low post.

the two best players in the league. Second-year coach Melvin Watkins had a top-15 recruiting year, signing seven athletic players between 6-4 and 6-8. BAD NEWS: It's hard to tell how the 49ers will adjust to a favorites role in Conference USA and rarified air in the Top 25.

16. Texas

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.
GOOD NEWS: Tommy Penders had a top-five recruiting class, signing five players 6-8 or taller (including 7-0 freshman Chris Mihm and 6-9 guard Luke Axtell) who should complement explosive 6-5 junior guard Kris Clack and pure shooter Brandy Perryman to provide a more balanced attack. BAD NEWS: Penders has a history of living and dying with his guards. The Horns constantly jacked up threes last year and made just 32 percent of 690 attempts. Lead guard DeJuan Vazquez is a converted small forward who struggled with his assist-turnover ratio and free-throw accuracy (50 percent). Clack is an NBA talent but fouled out of 12 games. Net result: a 2-6 record on the road in the Big 12.

17. Xavier

RETURNING STARTERS: 5.
GOOD NEWS: Guards Lenny Brown and Gary Lumpkin, who have played together since middle school in Wilmington, Del., both made first-team All-Atlantic 10 as sophomores and will continue to provide the Musketeers the creative energy that forced 21.1 turnovers per game last year. Xavier returns five double-figure scorers from an athletic team that averaged 83.2 ppg. BAD NEWS: The X-men, who used a three-guard offense, are undersized up front. Their biggest player, freshman Reggie Butler, is 6-9, making the Musketeers vulnerable to teams who can guard the perimeter.

18. Rhode Island

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.
GOOD NEWS: The Rams feel they pulled off a coup when they convinced former UCLA coach Jim Harrick to replace Al Skinner, who is off to BC. Senior lead guard Tyson Wheeler is the most dangerous player in the underrated Atlantic 10. He has exceptional shooting range and keys a stingy defense. BAD NEWS: The Rams will move select home games from tiny Keaney Gymnasium to 13,000-seat Providence Civic Center and could fall victim to their heightened expectations if center Luther Clay, a 6-9 transfer from Purdue, or 6-8 JUCO transfer Rico Harris, does not emerge as an able replacement for 7-footer Michael Andersen.

Hoops Viewing Guide (continued)

Thursday

ESPN carries a Big Ten, Conference USA doubleheader

Conference USA is rebuilding. Danny Fortson, DeJean Wheat and Jerald Honeycutt are all gone, leaving forward DeMarco Johnson and guard Sean Colson of UNCC, guard Aaron Hutchins of Marquette and forward Galen Robinson of Houston as the lone remaining established stars. Tulane, UNCC, South Florida, St. Louis, Memphis and Louisville all had strong recruiting years, which should make for competitive games.

Friday

A day off

Take it. Go to a movie or a high school game. Get some rest. The action starts at noon on Saturdays.

Saturday

ESPN is locked into an A-10 game at 12 noon and normally runs an ACC game at night. ESPN2 also runs an afternoon-evening doubleheader. CBS does regional doubleheaders most weekends, with a Big East team as the centerpiece of the programming. ABC does likewise, zeroing in on the Pac-10 with its late game. NBC carries selected Notre Dame games.

Be selective. There's usually an ACC game on early. If you live on the East Coast, here's your chance to catch Arizona, UCLA and Stanford in conference play.

Sunday

CBS, ABC and ESPN each run doubleheaders

This is your best shot to watch intersectional matchups. We've never been fond of these made-for-TV games, especially when they occur in the midst of conference play. All too often, one team doesn't show up. An ideal day for channel surfing.

DOUG PENSINGER/ALLSPORT; JOHN GRIESHOP FOR SCHWARTZMAN SPORTS; BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN; FERNANDO MEDINA/BRSP

Lotto Fever

An early forecast of what the 1998 NBA draft lottery might look like.

1. Raef LaFrentz, Kansas
2. Paul Pierce, Kansas
3. Antawn Jamison, North Carolina
4. Lamar Odom, no college
5. Keon Clark, UNLV
6. Mike Bibby, Arizona
7. Vince Carter, North Carolina
8. Kenny Thomas, New Mexico
9. Jelani McCoy, UCLA
10. J.R. Henderson, UCLA
11. Brian Skinner, Baylor
12. Anthony Carter, Hawaii
13. Cory Carr, Texas Tech

19. UConn

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.
GOOD NEWS: The Huskies should be the class of the Big East by default. Richard Hamilton and Rashamel Jones are legitimate wing scorers. Guards Ricky Moore and Khalid El-Amin are quick enough to generate lethal defensive pressure. BAD NEWS: Sophomores Jake Voskuhl and Souleymane Wane will man the middle. Neither is Travis Knight.

20. Utah

RETURNING STARTERS: 3.
GOOD NEWS: Rick Majerus is one of the most fundamentally sound coaches in the country. His teams consistently defend and get good shots out of their set offense, which will revolve around 6-11 center Michael Doleac in the low post. Senior Andre Miller supplies leadership at point and should help the Utes weather a more difficult WAC schedule. BAD NEWS: All-America forward Keith Van Horn is gone, leaving the team without a true go-to player.

21. UNLV

RETURNING STARTERS: 2.
GOOD NEWS: Bill Bayno's Rebels seem poised to return to the NCAA tournament for the first time since 1991 with a front line that features 6-11 Marcus Camby clone Keon Clark and another potential NBA first-rounder, Tyrone Nesby. The Rebels can go nine deep with quality players. BAD NEWS: Versatile 6-9 freshman guard Lamar Odom, one of the top five recruits in the country, announced in mid-summer he was turning pro amid allegations that he had cheated on his ACT exam.

22. Maryland

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.
GOOD NEWS: Lead guard Terrell Stokes and slashing scorer Laron Profit are back and should again make the Terps the quickest team in the ACC, allowing Gary Williams to utilize fullcourt pressure. BAD NEWS: Keith Booth, a 6-6 All-ACC forward who had his number retired, is gone, leaving Profit as the Terps' best hope for a go-to guy.

23. Indiana

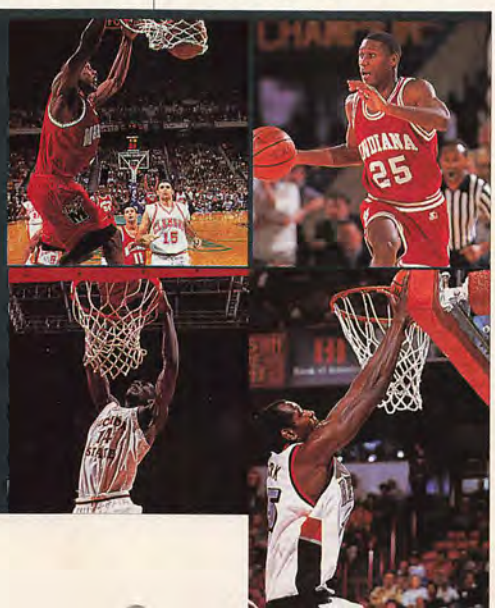
RETURNING STARTERS: 4.
GOOD NEWS: Knight, a Hall of Fame coach, is one of the great teachers in the history of the sport and should be able to successfully integrate young stars like center Jason Collier, lead guard A.J. Guyton and freshman guard Luke Recker into the mix. BAD NEWS: The senior class has never realized its potential, leaving Knight to bring Andrae Patterson off the bench and build around a younger nucleus. Lack of overall team quickness limited the Hoosiers' ability to create turnovers and allow a low field-goal percentage.

24. Cincinnati

RETURNING STARTERS: 2.
GOOD NEWS: Bob Huggins, whose teams traditionally play hard, has a deep roster that can overcome the loss of Danny Fortson. Kenyon Martin, a 6-8 sophomore shot blocker, and guard Melvin Levett both have enormous upside. BAD NEWS: Talented small forward Ruben Patterson, the JUCO Player of the Year in 1996, has been an enigma. Huggins, who was spoiled when Nick Van Exel played here, is still searching for a lead guard to run the offense.

25. Florida State

RETURNING STARTERS: 4.
GOOD NEWS: The Seminoles should have the ACC's best inside game. New coach Steve Robinson inherits four players 6-8 or taller who can all do damage on the blocks. Senior lead guard Kerry Thompson will get them the ball. BAD NEWS: It's hard to tell how much impact Robinson will have in his first year after coaching in the WAC at Tulsa. The first order of business is to motivate the talented but underachieving Corey Louis, who needs a big year or could wind up in the NBA free-agent pool. ■



Clockwise from top left: Laron Profit returns to lead Maryland, the ACC's quickest team; A.J. Guyton points the way for Indiana; UNLV's Keon Clark is the best player you might not know: He'll be an NBA lottery pick; and Florida State's Randall Jackson is one of a handful of Seminoles who can do damage in the paint.

CLOCKWISE: BRUCE L. SCHWARTZMAN (2); BRIAN SPURLOCK; PAUL CHAPMAN/BRSP

All-Hybrid

Players who can excel at multiple positions

C A.J. Bramlett
Arizona
F J.R. Henderson
UCLA
F Vince Carter
North Carolina
G Matt Harpring
Georgia Tech
G Ryan Robertson
Kansas

All-Garnett

High school players who we hope go to college before they go to the NBA

C Dan Gadzuric
Byfield, Mass., Governor Dummer
F Rashard Lewis
Alief, Texas, Alief-Eisik
F Korleone Young
Chatnum, Va., Hargrave Military
F Stromile Swift
Shreveport, La., Fair Park
G Cory Hightower
Durham, N.C., Mt. Zion Christian Academy

All-NBA

Players who would've been All-Americans this year had they not gone pro

C Adonal Foyle
Colgate
F Kevin Garnett
Michigan
F Kobe Bryant
Duke
G Stephon Marbury
Georgia Tech
G Allen Iverson
Georgetown

Sport
America's Premier Sports Monthly

South

1 Duke
16 Southern
Duke
8 Georgia
9 Temple
Georgia
Duke
5 UConn
12 C. of Charleston
UConn
4 UNC-Charlotte
13 Jackson St.
UNC-Charlotte
UNC-Charlotte
6 Maryland
11 Villanova
Maryland
3 Clemson
14 Iona
Clemson
Clemson
7 N.C. State
10 Minnesota
N.C. State
2 S. Carolina
15 Liberty
S. Carolina
S. Carolina
Duke
S. Carolina
Duke

East

1 N. Carolina
16 Hartford
N. Carolina
8 UMass
9 St. John's
UMass
N. Carolina
5 Rhode Island
12 E. Carolina
Rhode Island
4 Texas
13 Princeton
Texas
Texas
6 Florida St.
11 S. Alabama
Florida St.
3 Michigan
14 Long Island
Michigan
Michigan
7 Miss. St.
10 Syracuse
Miss. St.
2 Kentucky
15 Navy
Kentucky
Kentucky
N. Carolina
Kentucky
N. Carolina

Midwest

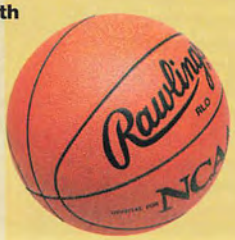
1 Kansas
16 SE Louisiana
Kansas
8 Mississippi
9 Arkansas
Mississippi
Kansas
5 Utah
12 Illinois St.
Utah
4 New Mexico
13 Valparaiso
New Mexico
New Mexico
Kansas
6 Indiana
11 New Mexico St.
Indiana
3 Iowa
14 Murray St.
Iowa
Iowa
7 Cincinnati
10 G. Washington
Cincinnati
2 UCLA
15 Butler
UCLA
UCLA
UCLA
Kansas

West

1 Arizona
16 Campbell
Arizona
8 Louisville
9 Oklahoma
Louisville
Arizona
5 Xavier
12 Ball St.
Xavier
4 Stanford
13 Coppin State
Stanford
Stanford
Arizona
6 UNLV
11 Pepperdine
UNLV
3 Fresno St.
14 Weber St.
Fresno St.
Fresno St.
7 Wisconsin
10 Missouri
Wisconsin
2 Purdue
15 NE Louisiana
Purdue
Purdue
Purdue
Arizona

Kansas

Giddy with anticipation for March Madness, the editors of SPORT locked themselves in a room, studied game film, pored over RPI rankings and came up with our own complete, no-upset tourney brackets.



By Cam Benty

The Maui Invitational: Runnin', Gunnin' and Sunnin' at the Premier Collegiate Early-Season Tourney

A Hoops Haven

FEW SPECTACLES IN SPORTS ARE AS TENSION-FILLED AND UNPREdictable as the NCAA tournament in March, a time when the country's greatest collegiate teams gather and attempt to excel on center stage with the knowledge that it's one slipup and out.

For most players consumed by March Madness, November triggers foggy memories of two-a-day practices and the dampened chill of fall. A select few, however, can hearken back to heavenly Hawaii.

Ah, Maui. Where many of the best teams from the previous season are lucky enough to get the invite to what has become the premier regular-season college basketball tournament.

This year's lot is true to form, with several of the nation's top teams on the guest list to play at the 2,500-seat LaHaina Civic Center Nov. 24-26.

The lineup, which will do battle in single-elimination style: defending NCAA champion Arizona, Boston College, DePaul, Duke, George Washington, Kentucky, Missouri and host Chaminade.

What makes the Maui tournament every bit as memorable as the beautiful backdrop is the tradition of upsets. Chaminade, a tiny NAIA school with little hoops history, gained national notoriety in 1982 when it stunned top-ranked Virginia, led by All-America center Ralph Sampson, in arguably the greatest college hoops upset of all time.

Two years later, Hakeem Olajuwon discovered how Sampson felt when his Phi Slamma Jamma Houston Cougars were bounced by Fresno State.

And just two years ago, then-defending champ UCLA fell to upstart Santa Clara and point guard Steve Nash. It was a fortelling beginning for the Bruins, an NCAA tourney first-round victim the following March.

Maybe UCLA had gotten too much sun before Steve Nash (above) and Santa Clara upset the defending national champs in the '95 Invitational.

OVERTIME

The Teams:
Arizona, Boston College, Chaminade, DePaul, Duke, George Washington, Kentucky, Missouri

Where to Get Tickets:
Hard Rock Cafe, Maui
(808) 667-7400
Available starting in November

Where to Stay:
Kaanapali Beach Resort Association, Cynthia Herberg, Executive Director, 45 Kai Ala Drive, Kaanapali/LaHaina, Maui, HI 96761 (808) 661-0011
Hot Ticket - Hyatt Regency Maui, (808) 742-1234
Wailea Destination Association, Nancie Brown, President, 3750 Wailea Alanui, Wailea, Maui, HI 96753-8333, (808) 879-4258
Hot Ticket - Renaissance Wailea Beach Resort (808) 879-4900

What to Do Between Games:
Whale Watch: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whales National Marine Sanctuary, 726 S. Kihei Rd., Kihei, HI 96753, (808) 879-2818
Golf: Wailea Golf Course, Wailea, Hawaii, (808) 875-5111
Bike: Haleakula–Maui Downhill, Brian Kramer, 199 Dairy Road, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732, (808) 871-2155
Fly Over the Haleakula Crater: Sunshine Helicopters, 107 Kahului Heliport, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732, (808) 871-0722

MAUI BEACH COURTESY OF THE MAUI VISITORS BUREAU/RON DAHLQUIST; ACTION BY BRIAN TIRPAK.

Sport Quiz

Compiled by William Ladson

1. Andruw Jones (pictured right) is one of two major-leaguers to hit a home run in his first two World Series at-bats. Name the other.

2. George Brett is one of two major-leaguers to clout three homers in a League Championship Series game. Who was the other?

3. Since 1967, two relief pitchers have earned World Series MVP honors. Name them.

4. Name the only starting pitcher to be awarded the League Championship Series MVP despite not winning a game.

5. Who was the last major-leaguer to win the regular-season and World Series MVP awards in the same season?

A. Paul Molitor
B. Mike Schmidt
C. Reggie Jackson
D. Tom Glavine

6. Match the NFL quarterback with the college he attended.

A. Neil O'Donnell B. Jeff Blake C. Erik Kramer D. Brad Johnson

1. North Carolina St. 2. Maryland 3. East Carolina 4. Florida State

7. Which NFL running back last season had the most carries resulting in loss of yardage?

8. Which player led the NHL in game-winning goals last season?

A. Mark Messier
B. Mike Modano
C. Mats Sundin
D. Paul Kariya

9. Who was the top-scoring NHL rookie in 1996-97?

A. Mike Grier, Oilers
B. Jim Campbell, Blues
C. Bryan Berard, Islanders
D. Jarome Iginla, Flames

10. Which NHL team had the most home losses last season?

A. Sharks
B. Oilers
C. Bruins
D. Maple Leafs

11. Match the player with his first NBA team.

A. Rasheed Wallace B. Ricky Pierce C. Charles Oakley D. Armon Gilliam

1. Bulls 2. Bullets 3. Suns 4. Pistons

12. Larry Brown has coached six NBA teams. Name them.

13. Name the only NBA player to score more than 2,000 points in 10 consecutive seasons.

STUMPER

Name the only player to win consecutive NBA titles with two different teams.

OCTOBER STUMPER ANSWER

Darrell Evans (Name the last major-leaguer in a non-strike season to hit 40 home runs while failing to drive in 100 runs.)

THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Gene Tenace 2. Bob Robertson 3. Rollie Fingers and John Wetteland 4. Curt Schilling 5. B (1980) 6. A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4 7. Barry Sanders (44) 8. D (10) 9. D (50) 10. A (23) 11. A-2, B-4, C-1 and D-3 12. Nuggets, Nets, Spurs, Clippers, Pacers and 76ers 13. Karl Malone

Win the Pin!

SPORT MAGAZINE

Answer the stumper correctly and win a *Sport* pin. Fax your answer with your name and address to *Sport* Magazine at (213) 782-2835, or mail your answer to *Sport* Quiz, 6420 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90048. Limit one per person, and all entries must be postmarked by Oct. 15, 1997.

AL BELLO/ALLSPORT; TIM O'DELL; D. CLARKE EVANS/NBA PHOTOS; TOM DIPACE

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A DIVISION OF THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION

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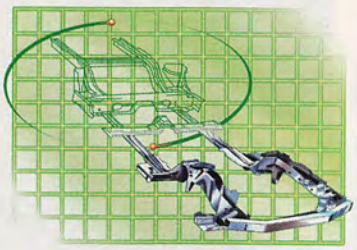

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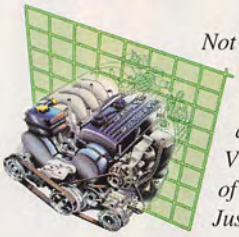

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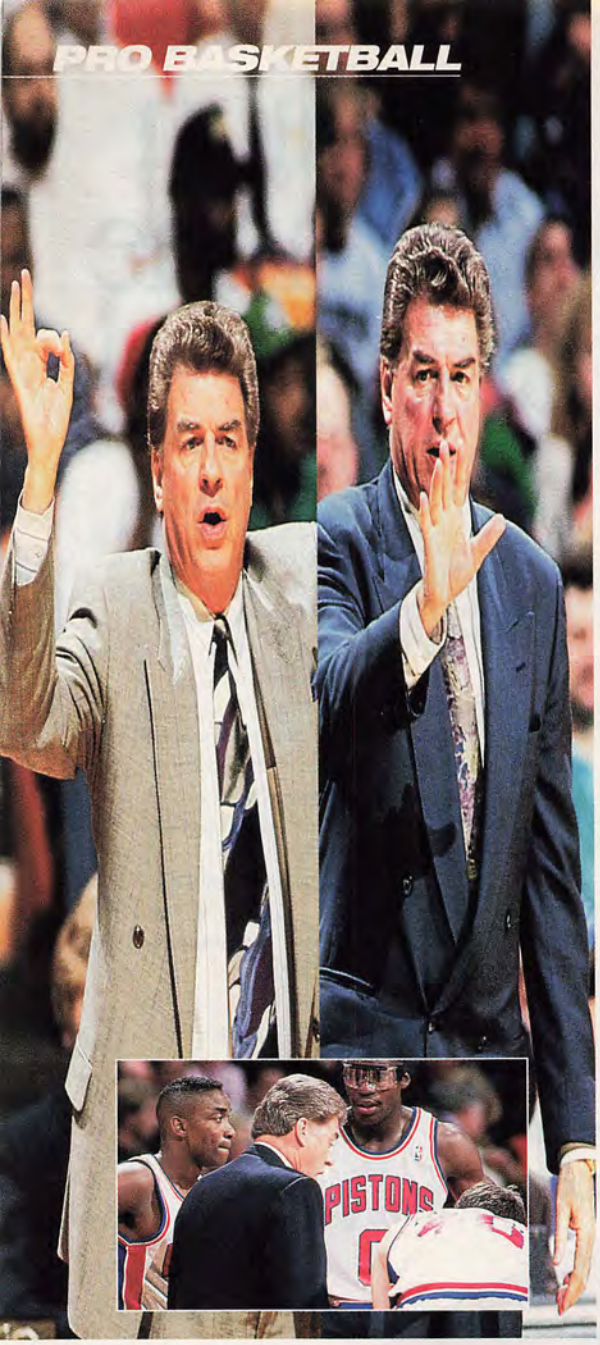
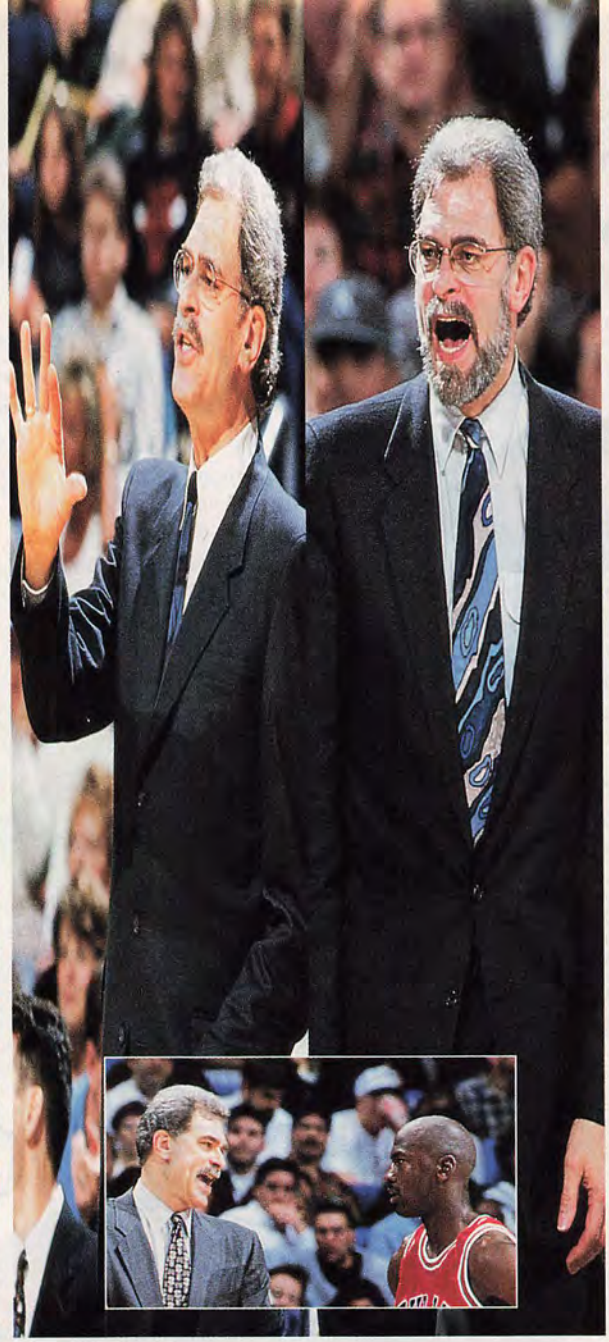
Always use seat belts. Remember a backseat is the safest place for children.





Higher Authorities

A Dizzying Escalation of Power, Fame and Fortune Has Made the NBA Head Coach One of the Most Desirable Jobs in Sports

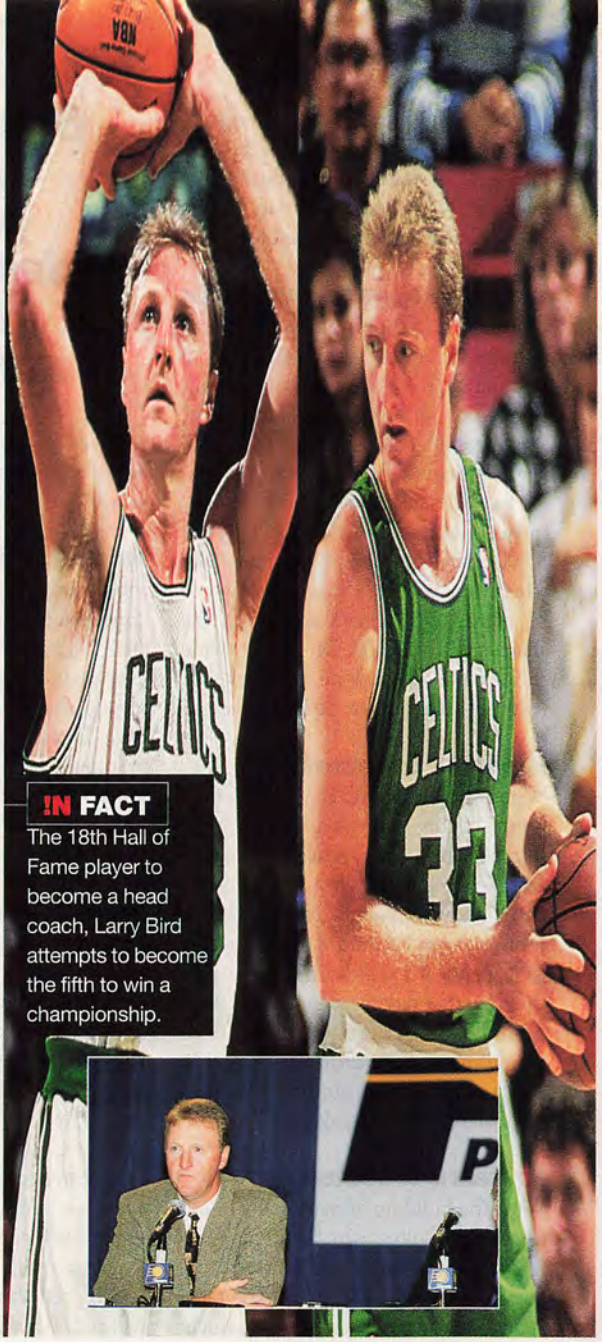
By Darryl Howerton

THIS JUST IN: FORMER UCLA HEAD COACH JOHN WOODEN IS PREPARED TO sign a one-year, $10 million contract to coach the Los Angeles Lakers. Sources say the 86-year-old Wizard of Westwood is soon to be the Icon of Inglewood, taking his 10 NCAA championship rings cross town to see whether a team loaded with star players in their 20s can be coached by a man who played basketball in the '20s.

When contacted at his home for comment, Wooden refuted the rumor by, well, laughing. "Oh, no, no, no. Absolutely not," he said, before laughing some more.

OK, Wooden's not coming back. Forgive us for starting such a rumor, but you never can tell these days, what with NBA franchises doling out multimillion-dollar

CHUCK DALY BY (CLOCKWISE): SCOTT CUNNINGHAM/NBA PHOTOS; TIM O'DELL; BOB ROSATO. PHIL JACKSON BY BRIAN SPURLOCK; BOB ROSATO; BRIAN SPURLOCK. LARRY BROWN BY: ROCKY



IN FACT

The 18th Hall of Fame player to become a head coach, Larry Bird attempts to become the fifth to win a championship.

WIDNER: BOB ROSATO; TIM O'DELL. LARRY BIRD BY: STEVE LIPOFSKY; ROCKY WIDNER; BRIAN SPURLOCK. RICK PITINO BY: BRIAN BAHR/ALLSPORT; BRIAN SPURLOCK; STEVE LIPOFSKY.

deals to coaches as freely as they hand out pregame promotions to fans. The idea of Wooden signing on with the Lakers isn't much more far-fetched than the thought of four new hires, without an NBA coaching win among them since 1994, pocketing $75 million over a collective 13 seasons of work. But that's what transpired in the off-season.

"You've got to take this thing day-to-day," says Chuck Daly, whose "day" came on June 7 when he signed a three-year, $15 million deal to coach the Orlando Magic. "Hey, they changed 15 coaches this year in the NBA out of a possible 29 CEO jobs. If you took 29 companies around the country, they might not replace one CEO. But they're doing it in our league and these are million-dollar jobs."

Get it while it's hot.

We've entered a new era in sports. Being like Mike has become passé, while being like Coach is suddenly quite enticing. To be like Mike is to be at the whim of an owner who may want to get rid of you, your coach and/or teammates. But be like Coach and now you're the chief executive officer of your very own NBA franchise, raking in a $3-to-$7-million annual income (as 10 coaches now do), managing your own group of stars and having the most input on how the organization is run. Fame, fortune and power. What's not to love?

It was enough to lure Larry Bird from his cush position as Boston Celtics vice president and Chuck Daly from his cozy job as TNT analyst. It was enough to sell Rick Pitino on the Celtics and Larry Brown on Philadelphia. Enough to force Chicago, Atlanta, Cleveland and Houston to re-up with their marquee coaches—Phil Jackson, Lenny Wilkens, Mike

From left, Daly, Jackson, Brown, Bird and Pitino are cashing in on a new NBA trend: franchises offering coaches CEO-type power—and a whole lot of loot to boot.

THE $4 MILLION-PLUS CLUB

Rick Pitino, Boston
$7.0 million per ($42 million for 6 years)
Phil Jackson, Chicago
$5.7 million per (1 year)
Larry Brown, Philadelphia
$5.0 million per ($25 million for 5 years)
Chuck Daly, Orlando
$5.0 million per ($15 million for 3 years)
Lenny Wilkens, Atlanta
$5.0 million per (4-year extension)
Mike Fratello, Cleveland
$5.0 million per (4-year extension)
Larry Bird, Indiana
$4.5 million per ($18 million for 4 years)
Rudy Tomjanovich, Houston
$4.5 million per (4-year extension)

Fratello and Rudy Tomjanovich, respectively—for huge deals. It was also enough to drive University of Kansas head coach Roy Williams to schedule an impromptu family trip to the NBA Finals in Chicago to see just how fan-tastic the pro life can be.

So why are NBA franchises suddenly so willing to break the bank for men in suits who, until last season, had never earned more than $2 million per year? Perhaps because these days the NBA coach is more than a coach. Today it's a five-tiered job.

He needs to be a mover and shaker: On June 23, the Indianapolis City-County Council approved partial funding for the Pacers' new $175 million arena. It's no coincidence that this measure wasn't able to pass until Bird was named Pacers head coach.

In a related note: The publicly owned Celtics stock stood at a typical 3,600 shares on April 29. A day later, when rumors leaked that Pitino would be named head coach and CEO, the shares rose to 19,100. On May 5, when the deal was all but done, the stock shot up three full points on 283,100 shares.

He needs to be a recruiter: When the best group of talent in free-agent history tests the market next summer, it'll be a good idea to have a marquee coach as your top recruiter. Pat Riley, who along with New Jersey's John Calipari became the first coaches to clear the $3 million hurdle, proved the value of having a marquee coach when he lured Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway and P.J. Brown to Miami in the summer of '96, turning the Heat into an instant contender.

He needs to be a salesman: With the building of new arenas—and new luxury suites, which can generate $30 million or so per year in added revenue—it's good to have a marketable coach in place. The mere announcement of the Brown, Pitino, Daly and Bird hirings sent ticket sales soaring in Philly, Boston, Orlando and Indiana, respectively—markets that had experienced significant dropoffs in the past year.

He needs to be a disciplinarian: Pitino was awfully bold at his news conference when he said the Celtics "will play better defense than they've ever played, they will have fun doing it, and they'll be in the best shape of their lives." Owners are now of the opinion that a coach who makes as much, if not more, than a majority of his players will command more respect from them.

He needs to be a coach: Lest we forget, a coach is a coach is a coach, which becomes all too clear when some of these journeymen leaders try to match X's and O's with a Riley or a Tomjanovich. Orlando All-Star guard Penny Hardaway, excited about the Daly hiring, told the *Florida Daily*: "Coach Daly's Detroit teams were feared around the NBA, and they went out and got the job done every night. He'll give us a lot of respect."

How will this new breed of coach/president/GM do? Only time will tell. But while you're waiting, you might want to replace that basketball in your child's hands with a whistle and clipboard. ■

Being like Mike has become passé, while being like Coach is suddenly quite enticing.

SEEKING EMPLOYMENT

For the right price, numerous other NBA head-coaching candidates will rise from their comfortable chairs to give the pros a go. We asked front-office officials around the league to give their assessments of the best candidates for future NBA employment.

CANDIDATE	DAY JOB
1. Roy Williams	**Kansas head coach** Reportedly has the interest of the Lakers, and once you have Jerry West's respect ....
2. Tim Floyd	**Iowa State head coach** Jerry Krause apparently has handed him Phil Jackson's job for '98-99, so he'd better be good.
3. Billy Cunningham	**Retired** The 54-year-old former part-owner of the Miami Heat would be a high-priced commodity should he return to coaching.
4. Lon Kruger	**Illinois head coach** Seemingly has the perfect demeanor for the NBA game.
5. Mike Krzyzewski	**Duke head coach** Fab 5-type recruiting class and ailing back means he'll stay put, but the NBA is watching.
6. Paul Westphal, Rick Adelman Bob Hill	**Unemployed** They're one and the same—good guys who have coached teams to 60-win seasons but left their last jobs on sour notes.
7. Gar Heard	**76ers assistant coach** Larry Brown's right-hand man is a players' coach, a hard worker and a student of the game.
8. Rick Majerus	**University of Utah head coach** Loved by his players, but health problems are more of a concern over an 82-game schedule.
9. Eric Musselman	**CBA Florida head coach** George Karl in-the-making has been interviewed for jobs, but youth and volatility scare some.
10. Tubby Smith	**Kentucky head coach** Might be better fit than, say, Dean Smith, John Thompson or Bob Huggins. If Notre Dame's John MacLeod were to return to the NBA, he'd be good too.

ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY

Take note, fans of the Celtics, 76ers, Warriors, Nuggets and Grizzlies: In the '80s and '90s, only 20 of the 44 head coaches who inherited clubs that had won 30 or fewer games the previous season were able to reach the playoffs during their tenures, and only 10 of those 20 satisfied ownership enough to remain as head coaches beyond three seasons. Of those 10, just six were able to win 50 games in a season during their stints. Here are those select six franchise rebuilders:

Head Coach	First Team	Improvement in Wins
Doug Collins	'96 Pistons	28 to 54 in two years
	'87 Bulls	30 to 50 in two years
Cotton Fitzsimmons	'89 Suns	28 to 55 in one year
Rick Pitino	'88 Knicks	24 to 52 in two years
Lenny Wilkens	'87 Cavaliers	29 to 57 in three years
Bill Fitch	'84 Rockets	14 to 51 in three years
	'80 Celtics	29 to 61 in one year
Frank Layden	'83 Jazz	25 to 51 in seven years

Coming Next Month

NBA SEASON PREVIEW

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-S.S., Summerville, SC-

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-S.S., Summerville, SC-

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-E. Faulk, Jr., Mattapan, MA-

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MLS: Reaching Its ...

GOAL

IN ITS SCRATCHING AND CLAWING ATTEMPT TO THRIVE IN THE crowded circuit of professional sports leagues in the United States, Major League Soccer, nearing the conclusion of its second year, has accomplished one of its goals: assembling a quality product on the field. It may be natural in this country to look first at what corporate sponsors are aligned and what the marketing potential is for each player, but if soccer is to succeed at this level, fans will need to be enticed by the action. MLS has reached a standard of play that, although not yet on par with the world's top professional leagues, is quite strong considering the league is but two years old.

"We certainly don't yet belong in the upper echelon of premier first divisions of the major leagues of the world," says New England Revolution head coach Thomas Rongen, a native of Holland who played with legendary Dutch club Ajax before moving on to the U.S. in 1979 to make his mark on the emerging soccer scene as both player and instructor. "But I think we would fare well in those divisions, somewhere in the middle, and in some cases maybe on the top of a second division."

No small accomplishment, considering most leagues in Europe are near-

The Columbus Crew's Brian Bliss (above) outduels a defender; below, Kansas City's Vitalis "Digital" Takawira is tackled by San Jose's Troy Dayak.

J. BRETT WHITESELL/ISI (3)

New York/New Jersey MetroStars goalkeeper Tony Meola, the most recognizable U.S. national team player prior to World Cup play in '94, led the MLS in shutouts with nine in '96 and was second in goals-against (1.31). Between the World Cup and the start of MLS, Meola unsuccessfully pursued a placekicking job with the NFL's New York Jets.

New England Revolution defenseman Alexi Lalas has been at the center of all MLS marketing efforts, including this season's $5 million ad campaign, which carried the slogan, "MLS: This Stuff Kicks." Lalas makes the bulk of his money through endorsements.

RICK STEWART/ALLSPORT

J. BRETT WHITESELL/SI

ly a century older than MLS. Limited to five foreign players per team, MLS stands to make further gains in quality of play with the improvement of U.S. players, aided by the A-league, a second division that will support MLS with 24 teams.

Although '97 attendance figures were discouraging, there is reason to believe that true soccer fans—MLS's base—like what they see. Univision, which has what's considered a knowledgeable fan viewership, experienced increased ratings this year. The question, of course, is whether the support of die-hard soccer fans, however strong, will be enough.

The packaging of the league may make the most headlines, but MLS, whose style of play is more deliberate than leagues in Europe partly because the season runs during the heat of the summer months, ultimately will live or die on the pitch. Soccer fans hope the league will be around so that the evolution is allowed to continue.

"Organizing defensively and getting the offensive style together doesn't happen overnight," says Rongen, the 1996 coach of the year with the Tampa Bay Mutiny. "Some of the better clubs in Europe also took years to get where they are now. I think that now every year you'll see a marked improvement in the league." ■

OVERTIME

The MLS playoffs kick off Saturday, Oct. 4, and culminate with the MLS championship game on Sunday, Oct. 26 at 3:30 p.m. EST, televised by ABC.

For MLS info and Internet links to the teams: mlsnet.com

Tampa Bay Mutiny All-Star forward Roy Lassiter (left in above photo) faced dogged man-to-man coverage and struggled early in '97, a year after leading the MLS with 27 goals and 58 points; teammate Carlos Valderrama (left, with the hair) remains one of the class midfielders in the world at age 36; D.C. United's David Vaudreuil (right) gives new meaning to the term "header."

Reader Survey/Dominators of Sport

Thank you for your interest in Sport Magazine. To help us develop exciting features in upcoming issues, please fax in more information about yourself and Sport Magazine. The results of your votes for Dominators of Sport will appear in the January issue. As a thank you, your name will be entered in the Grand Prize Sweepstakes. Grand Prize winner will receive a Sony Playstation.

1. Where did you get this issue of Sport Magazine?
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Rawsport: Soccer	☐	☐	☐
Final Out	☐	☐	☐
Travel: Maui	☐	☐	☐
Impact	☐	☐	☐
Features:			
Michael Irvin	☐	☐	☐
Jimmy Johnson	☐	☐	☐
Triathlon Q&A	☐	☐	☐
World Series Then/Now	☐	☐	☐
Media: Joe Morgan	☐	☐	☐
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College Basketball Preview	☐	☐	☐
NBA Coaches	☐	☐	☐
Martina Hingis	☐	☐	☐

3. How would you compare the new Sport to Sport of one year ago?
☐ Much better ☐ Better ☐ Same
☐ Worse ☐ Didn't read one year ago

4. Do you plan to buy the next issue of Sport?
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5. How well does Sport satisfy your needs in the following areas?

	Want More	About Right	Want Less
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MLB	☐	☐	☐
NBA	☐	☐	☐
NHL	☐	☐	☐
College Football	☐	☐	☐
College Basketball	☐	☐	☐
Golf	☐	☐	☐
Tennis	☐	☐	☐
Auto Racing	☐	☐	☐
Extreme Sports	☐	☐	☐

6. Have you accessed the Internet in the past six months?
☐ Yes ☐ No

7. Approximately how many people, other than yourself, have read or looked through your current copy of Sport?
#Male _____ #Female _____

8. Which of the following magazines do you read regularly (3 out of 4 issues)? Please check all that apply.
☐ Sport ☐ Details ☐ The Sporting News
☐ Slam ☐ Golf Magazine ☐ Men's Journal
☐ Inside Sports ☐ Outside ☐ GQ
☐ Esquire ☐ Rolling Stone ☐ None of these
☐ Golf Digest ☐ Sports Illustrated ☐ Other _____

9. Please rank the Dominators of Sport for 1997 from 1-20. (Circle your No. 1 pick.)

___ Jeff Gordon	___ E. Holyfield	___ Ernie Els
___ Roger Clemens	___ Brett Favre	___ Martina Hingis
___ Randy Johnson	___ Barry Sanders	___ Sergei Bubka
___ Greg Maddux	___ Pete Sampras	___ Michael Johnson
___ Larry Walker	___ Tiger Woods	___ Carlos Valderrama
___ Michael Jordan	___ Dominik Hasek	___ Holly McPeak
___ Karl Malone	___ Eric Lindros	___ Tara Lipinski
___ Nikki McCray	___ O. De La Hoya	___ Kelly Slater
___ Marion Jones	___ Lisa Andersen	___ Ronaldo

Others not mentioned:
_____
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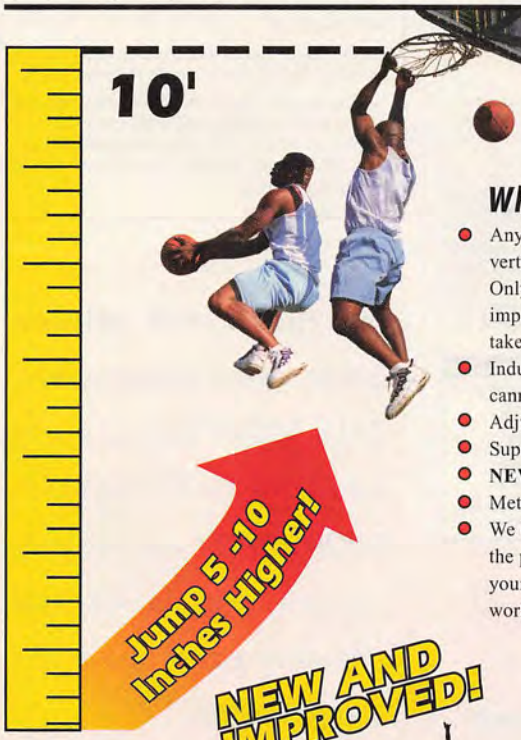

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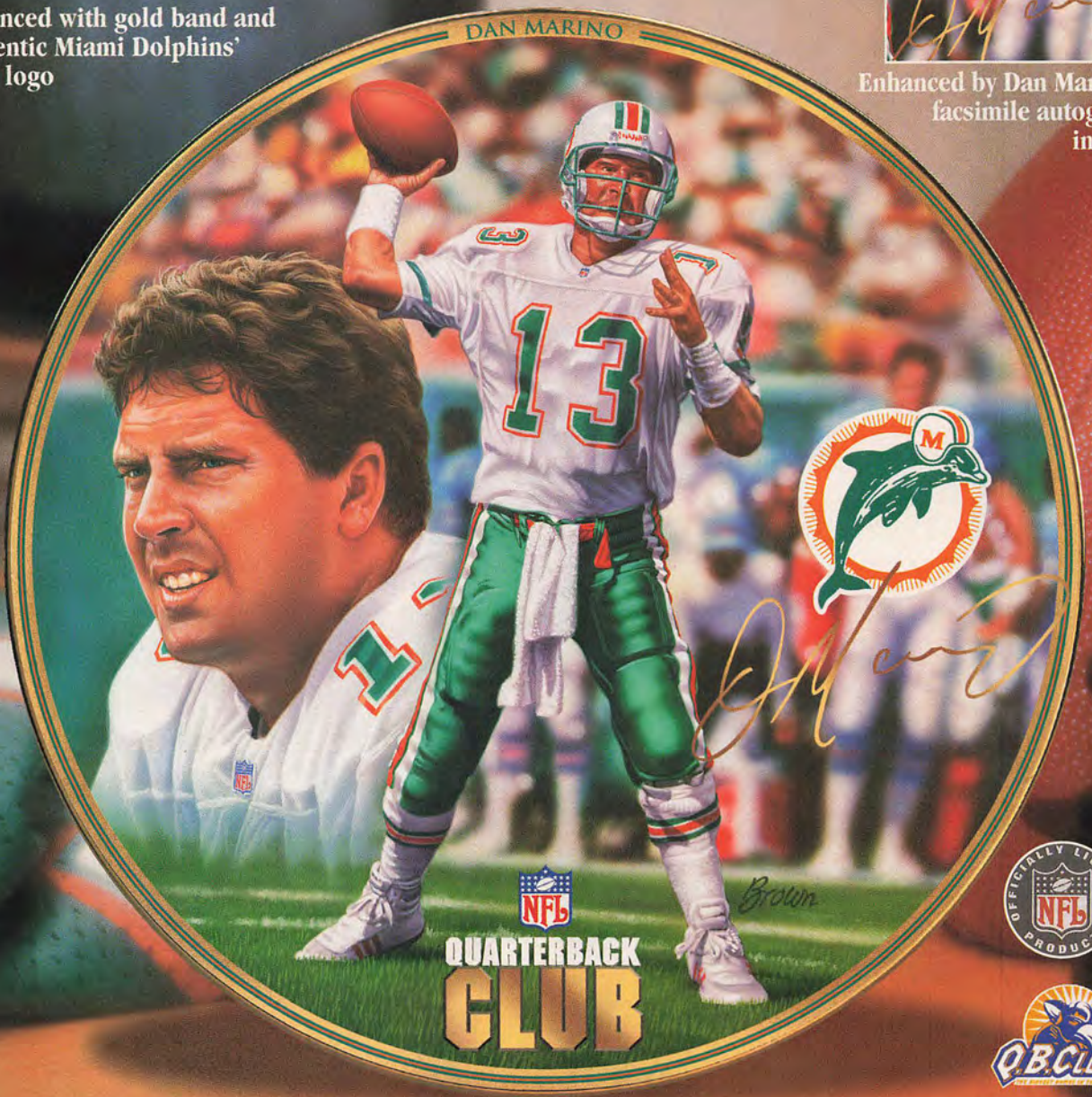

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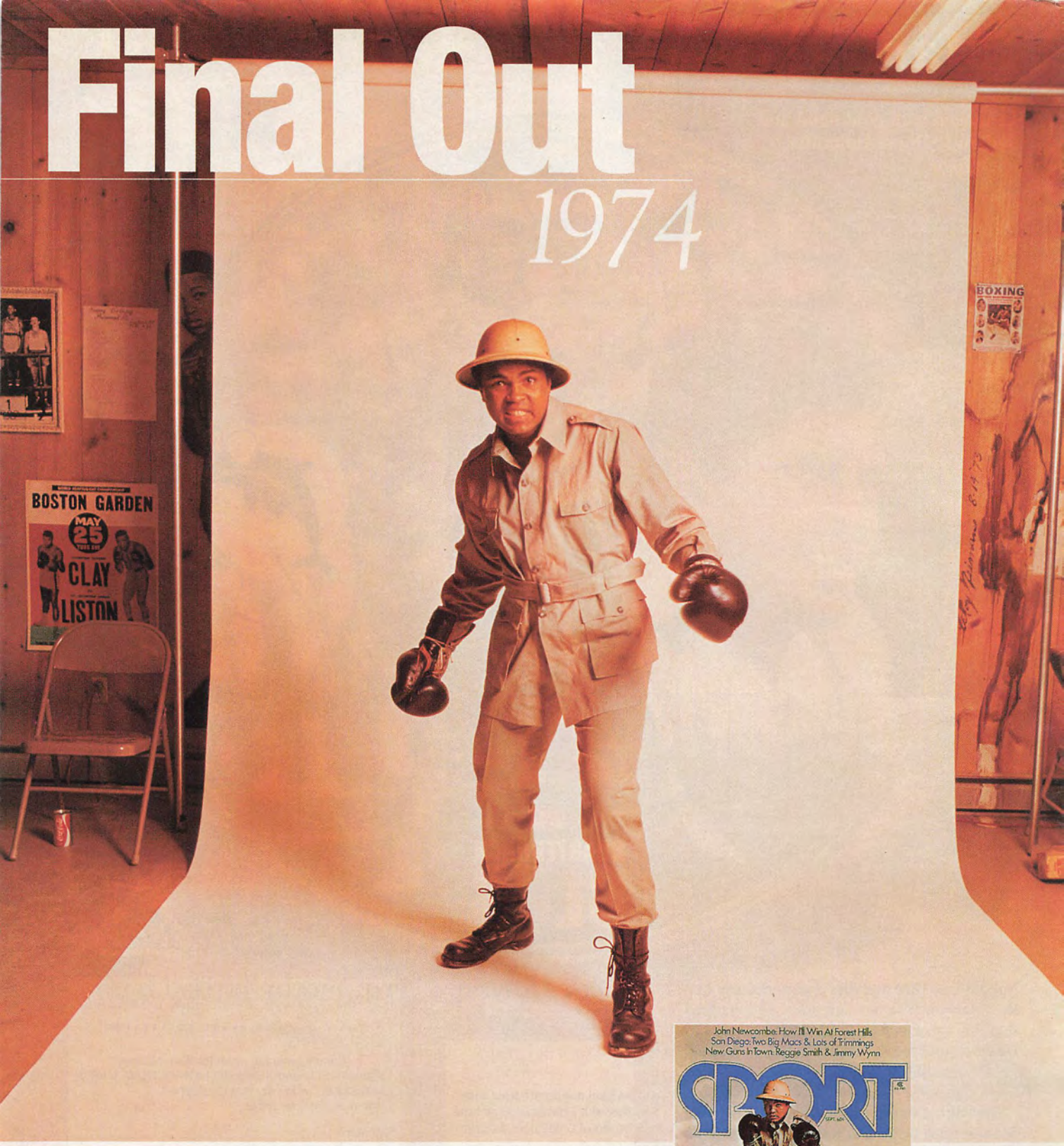

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